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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Jihad's al-Shami: War Against Israel 'Legitimate'

BR2601161395 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Jan 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Jihad's Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami by Patrice Claude in Gaza; date not given: "An Islamic Leader States Legitimacy of 'Holy War' With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To the great displeasure of the Israeli security services who hold him responsible, if not for the attacks themselves then at least for the logistics and extremely effective propaganda of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami was arrested for the second time in three months on Tuesday 24 January by Yasir 'Arafat's police before being released a few hours later.

The previous day in one of the interviews he always gives Israeli television each time his group claims responsibility for an operation, the shaykh justified the Natanya attack in the following terms: "The holy war against the Israeli occupation is totally legitimate. In the face of the unjustified crimes perpetrated against them by Israel, our people cannot simply pray and beg. You should also have to taste the bitter pill that we have to swallow every day."

A tall, stocky, bearded man who always wears a long gray galabia robe, 'Abdallah al-Shami is a voluble man, who is sure of his own rectitude and who does not harbor any doubts: "Everyone always talks of the settlers and the occupied territories but, as far as we are concerned, all Israelis are settlers since all of the holy land of Palestine is occupied."

Controlled from Damascus by Shaykh Fathi Shikaki, himself expelled from the territories by Israel during the 1980's, the Islamic Jihad does not recognize "the Jewish entity" and quite simply pushes for its destruction. 'Abdallah al-Shami told us in a recent interview: "Attacking Israel is a strategic rather than a tactical objective for us. Whenever we get the opportunity our fighters will strike. That is the rule. However, our main targets are the soldiers. We do not target civilians except when the Israeli forces kill our children."

What about the suicide attacks? "Israel has a powerful army plus planes, missiles, and bombs. All we have to pierce their security is our young heroes." So why is it only young people who sacrifice their lives? Why not more mature men such as himself? Aged 38 and married with five children, 'Abdallah al-Shami did not appreciate the question, all the more so since he was surrounded by a dozen or so adolescents who were hanging on his every word.

"Candidates for Martyrdom"

Behind his large horn-rimmed glasses his black eyes blinked: "I do not fear death. In fact, I am eager to meet my Prophet and my martyr brothers. Perhaps Allah has decided that I am more useful where I am. In any case, everywhere in the world the revolutionaries are always young people. We have just one problem: We have too many candidates for martyrdom and not enough resources to prepare them all."

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which serves as a model for the jihad created in 1980, one year after Khomeyni's revolution, "is not our only source of funding." Like many of his religious counterparts in the territories, he studied at the al-Azhar Islamic University in Egypt. He now teaches the history of the religion in a high school in the Gaza town where he lives.

Arrested eight times by the Israeli forces during the Intifadah—"All in all I have spent four years in prison"—he was one of the 415 Islamic militants expelled in December 1992 by Yitzhaq Rabin to a no-man's land in southern Lebanon. Like most of his friends in Hamas, the shaykh stayed there for one year before being allowed back home.

In the garage in Sharjaye—a central district of Gaza town—where he received us, 'Abdallah al-Shami is king. The whole street is decorated with graffiti in his honor. He owes his popularity to Israeli television, among others, which remains—at least in its Arabic programs—the most popular channel in the Territories, autonomous or not. He does not find his popularity at all unpleasant...

Iran's Ayatollah Tashkiri on Results of ICO Meeting

LD2601152595 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, Jan. 26, IRNA—The 9th meeting of the invitation committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] here on Wednesday [25 January] formulated an important strategy to unite the world of Islam against anti-Islamic provocations.

Head of the Iranian delegation to the meeting, Ayatollah 'Ali Taskhiri said that the new strategy included special cultural programs. Ayatollah Taskhiri said that the OIC member states were asked to prepare special programs for cultural activities. He said that the meeting discussed the status of Islam in southeast Asia, problems and ways to promote the objectives of Islam and the Islamic propagation programs.

Ayatollah Taskhiri said that the OIC meeting emphasized that the Islamic states sould not take heed of the allegations being fabricated by the west. He said, "We declare that all of Palestinian lands are Islamic territories and Islam has no intention to concede part of Palestine to Israel." Taskhiri described the achievements of the two-day meeting wound up on Wednesday as important in bringing closer the Islamic countries.

Some 200 delegates from 39 member states attended the OIC meeting in the Indonesian capital. Secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Hamid Algabid was present in the meeting. President Suharto of Indonesia opened the two-day gathering and observers from the international organizations and non-member countries attended the OIC meeting.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 17 Jan

NC2201101895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 17 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Supports, Artists Oppose Decision To Ban 'The Immigrant'
2. Al-Azhar Shaykh Bans Visits to Jerusalem Before Liberation
3. Shaykh al-Ghazali Notes Low Standard of Muslim Preachers
4. Al-Jizah Governor on Terrorism, Slum Areas
5. Religious Convoy Visits Girls' Nursing College To Answer Queries
6. Al-Ghazali Justifies Islam's Resistance of Zionist-Crusader Plot
7. Article Condemns Israeli 'Document To Punish Egypt'

AL-AZHAR SUPPORTS, ARTISTS OPPOSE DECISION TO BAN 'THE IMMIGRANT'

On page 1 there is a 100-word report by Musa Hal noting that Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud, deputy imam of al-Azhar, supports President Mubarak's statement that banning the film "The Immigrant" is not an attempt to censor ideas or works of art—a step that can only be done through the legal channels. Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud stressed that "al-Azhar does not censor any ideas, but expresses its opinion on the Islamic topics presented to it." He adds that if al-Azhar had the right to censor such a film, it would have done so a long time ago. The report notes that people working in the film industry held a conference on Wednesday and attacked the judiciary, al-Azhar, and the church. "They called for a united stance against al-Azhar and any traditions, norms, or laws that block art in Egypt," the report concludes.

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH BANS VISITS TO JERUSALEM BEFORE LIBERATION

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 says that al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq announced that a Muslim should not visit Jerusalem before it is restored to the Arab ranks. He visited a Coptic monastery and church in al-Daqahliyah and was received by al-Daqahliyah bishop. The bishop demanded that both Muslims and Christians work together to return Arab Jerusalem to the Muslims and Christians.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI NOTES LOW STANDARD OF MUSLIM PREACHERS

There is a 100-word unattributed report on page 3 on statements by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali in which he notes that the prevalence of myths and delusions among the Muslim masses is due to the failure of preachers to perform their duties properly. He says: "The current low standard of preachers makes them unable to confront foreign conspiracies against Islam, in particular the media campaigns the Zionists are orchestrating whose objective is to distort the image of Islam before the world public."

AL-JIZAH GOVERNOR ON TERRORISM, SLUM AREAS

Page 3 features a 2,500-word interview with al-Jizah Governor Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Shihatah by Muhammad al-Abnudi and Mustafa 'Alam-al-Din. He discusses various issues pertaining to his governorate, including improving the slum areas, closing down the video game arcades, extremism and terrorism, and popular mosques. On extremism and terrorism, he says: "I am not concerned with extremism, but am afraid of terrorism. This is what I am confronting." He believes that the reason for widespread terrorism in his governorate, and in Imbabah in particular, "is the big gap between the rich and the poor. On our part, we are trying to terminate this big problem." On his stance on religious societies, he says he does not mind the moderate religious societies. However, he remarks, "if the name of these societies is exploited for political purposes, then we shall not stand back with folded arms, but shall confront them very firmly." He notes the restrictions now placed on setting up mosques and worship places without licenses.

RELIGIOUS CONVOY VISITS GIRLS' NURSING COLLEGE TO ANSWER QUERIES

On pages 4 and 5 there is a lengthy 5,000-word report by Mamduh al-'Ushri on 'AQIDATI's religious convoy, which went to the girls' nursing college in al-Azhar. The convoy answers the girls' questions on various religious issues, such as civil marriage, family breakup, abandonment by the husband, wearing make-up, and other matters.

AL-GHAZALI JUSTIFIES ISLAM'S RESISTANCE OF ZIONIST-CRUSADER PLOT

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali writes a 500-word article on page 6 in which he discusses the history of Zionism in the world and the current "Zionist and Crusader" conspiracy against the Muslims. He states that the Jews lived peaceably with the Muslims and were not oppressed by them, while everyone knows what the Christians in Europe and elsewhere did to the Jews. He argues that the

Muslims will not allow the Jews to thrive by "establishing their entity on our ruins and building their happiness on our misery." He concludes: "Zionism and the Crusaders are cooperating to establish a world peace and to prevent religious or civil wars by crushing the Arabs and Islam and setting up greater Israel." Are the Muslims to be blamed for resisting, he wonders?

ARTICLE CONDEMNS ISRAELI DOCUMENT TO PUNISH EGYPT

On page 21 there is a 3,000-word article by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on the Israeli "Document To Punish Egypt." He reviews the document point by point and refutes each one with a counterargument. He says Egypt welcomes moving the Palestinian-Israeli talks away from Cairo because that would "decrease the burden of providing security that Egyptian security forces were shouldering to make these talks possible." He mocks the naivete of Jordan and the Palestinians in believing that economic projects would flow in after the signing of peace agreements. He recommends that these documents be thrown into the garbage bin because they are not worth anything. Abu-al-Hawl rejects the threats against Iran, because "Israel itself owns many nuclear weapons and refuses to open its nuclear installations to international inspection." He regrets that a country like Algeria, which is being helped by Egypt to combat fundamentalism, has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty without any qualms. He advocates a unified Arab stance on this matter.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 18 Jan

NC2301220295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 18 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Officials View Secularism, Communism, Islamic Shari'ah
2. Alcohol Banned in Djibouti
3. Official Warns of Satellite Transmissions' 'Negative Effects'
4. Education Minister Reportedly Threatens To Remove Teachers
5. Conference Notes Western Style of Treating Children
6. Jordan's Islamic Front Urges Guarantees for Freedom
7. Preacher Discusses Islamic Affairs, Missionary Broadcasts
8. Muslim Professor Views Shari'ah, Pluralism, Alcohol
9. Writer Slams Communism, Russian President Yeltsin
10. Scholar Discusses Secularism, Western Media Goals

OFFICIALS VIEW SECULARISM, COMMUNISM, ISLAMIC SHARI'AH

An unattributed report of 900-words on pages 1 and 3 discusses secularism, communism, and the application of the Islamic shari'ah and seeks the views of various officials on these issues.

The report begins: "Government officials have emphasized that secularists do not represent the authorities' point of view and that Egypt is an Islamic state whose constitution stipulates that the Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation. They clarified that all laws passed by the parliament should be absolutely in line with the Islamic shari'ah if they are to be constitutional."

Another part of the report reads: "Secularists have tried to exploit clashes between the government and the Islamists, and attacked Islam, al-Azhar, and the Islamic action's leading figures. By doing so, they think they support the state in combating what they call terrorism. Their sick imagination makes them believe that they represent the state's view." But, the report adds that government officials have denounced their view and said that they do not represent the government.

"Prominent writer" and Consultative Council Secretary Tharwat Abazah says: "Communists believe in atheism and it is not surprising that they are vocal against Islam and its symbols as they are against all religions. Communism contained nothing but illusions which were rejected. Therefore, when communism fell, the communists had nothing left of the Marxist legacy except hatred for Islam and its men. So they began to use the cloak of secularism to pursue their attack on Islam and its symbols. However, this secular costume has been rejected too and it will not protect them from failure."

The Consultative Council secretary goes on to "affirm" that Egypt—its president, people, and government—is an Islamic state and the heart of the Islamic world. He says: "I tell the communists and secularists: Enough lies and slander against Islam. We do not fear for Islam because of you."

Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, head of the People's Assembly Religious Committee, is quoted as saying that those gifted with understanding hearts do not regard what these secularists utter as expressive of the government's view but as a kind of campaign to harm Islam and its ulema and shaykhs. He adds that "in spite of the secularists, the holy Koran and prophetic tradition will remain the basic source of legislation as stipulated in the Egyptian constitution."

Awqaf Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Mansur al-Rifa'i 'Ubayd is then quoted as saying: "The recent incidents which we all reject prompted the advocates of secularism to be unwittingly audacious against Islam and its ulema because they hate Islam, which rejects hypocrites."

He adds: "I tell these secularists: Die in your fury because Egypt is and will remain an Islamic state and will never be secularist." Our government fights violence, values religion and its ulema, and advocates religiousness and moderation."

Sayyid 'Abd-al-Qadir, National Democratic Party assistant secretary in Cairo, notes that when it confronts perpetrators of violence, the government does not fight Islam or Muslims. He says the secularists' claims are mere fabrications and empty talk and "fishing in troubled waters." He adds: "We are an Islamic state, our people have long been known for religiousness. Islam is the religion of equality, mercy, brotherhood, and tolerance."

ALCOHOL BANNED IN DJIBOUTI

A 140-word unattributed front-page report says the Djibouti Government "last week" announced a ban on the sale of alcohol and closure of bars and entertainment places. The report adds that the government has given all workers in such facilities a one-month notice to liquidate their businesses.

OFFICIAL WARNS OF SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS' 'NEGATIVE EFFECTS'

A 90-word unattributed report on page 1 says head of the Specialized National Councils Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim has warned of the "negative effects" of direct satellite broadcasts.

The report adds that he has called for a media strategy to deal with these dangers that "threaten the values of the Islamic societies." He said: "Arabs and Muslims in general are required to enter the media industry and not just to be recipients so as to face up to the Western media by using their own weapon."

EDUCATION MINISTER REPORTEDLY THREATENS TO REMOVE TEACHERS

A 120-word unattributed report on the same page says: "In a public meeting with visitors at the International Book Fair, Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din threatened to remove 10,000 school teachers if they are proven to have propagated any religious ideas unauthorized by the ministry.

The report adds: "He confirmed that some 1,000 teachers have been removed because they tried to use the schools to propagate their religious ideas."

CONFERENCE NOTES WESTERN STYLE OF TREATING CHILDREN

A 150-word unattributed report on page 1 headlined "Muslim Children Are in Danger" talks about a conference on children and safety recently organized by the 'Ayn Shams University. The report says that the conference warned of the Muslim children's conditions "after studies have shown that children's rights have been violated as a result of the Western ways used in treating children in the media, educational, and social fields." In addition it warned of contaminated food and unfit milk.

JORDAN'S ISLAMIC FRONT URGES GUARANTEES FOR FREEDOM

Also on page 1, a 65-word unattributed report says: "The Islamic Action Front in Jordan has asked the Jordanian Government to devise a string of guarantees to secure freedom for every Muslim in Jordan." The front, the report adds, also asked the government to "return all mosques that had been confiscated by the government" and revive the "Islamic podiums it had banned."

PREACHER DISCUSSES ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, MISSIONARY BROADCASTS

Page 2 of AL-NUR features a 1,200-word interview with Dr. Mani' Hammad al-Jahni, "secretary general of the Islamic youths international symposium," who discusses various subjects concerning Islam.

Answering a question on how to deal with "Christian Gospel radios that target Muslim youths," he says "we" should have strong media and radio stations based on "our culture and faith that represent all our own characteristics." He adds: "Our current media in the Islamic world in general emulate Western media and even sometimes inadvertently implement their aims."

He claims that the media are generally led by "Zionist forces" with the aim of "distancing us from our faith and identity so that they can penetrate our ranks." He says: "Our media should reflect this view, the view that we are people with a mission and we have characteristics different from others."

Asked about the advantage of dialogues between Islam and Christianity "while the West openly declares its hostility toward Islam," he says that Islam is based on reason and logic and hence it does not shun dialogue because it has firm foundations.

When asked what the Muslim youths symposium has offered, he says the symposium currently focuses on Africa and the Islamic republics in central Asia by boosting the distribution of Islamic literature. He says: "We have printed 13 Islamic books in these Islamic republics with about one million copies in Russian, set up educational camps, organized courses throughout the year for preachers, and dispatched propagation convoys made up of preachers and doctors."

MUSLIM PROFESSOR VIEWS SHARI'AH, PLURALISM, ALCOHOL

In a 1,200-word interview on page 4, a Muslim professor views various Islamic issues, including Islamic shari'ah's standing in the constitution, political pluralism, and alcohol law.

Dr. 'Ali Jum'ah, jurisprudence professor at al-Azhar University's Islamic Studies College and adviser to the higher institute for Islamic thought in the United States, in Virginia, answers a question on the Egyptian constitution. He says the constitution's Article 2 stipulates that Islamic shari'ah is the main source of legislation. This article, he adds, "calls upon all of us to observe public order and morals because this means the preservation of society's values."

Asked about political pluralism, he says he wants a pluralism that respects public order and morals.

Asked about a law that has allowed alcohol drinking only in tourist sites and whether this law conforming to the shari'ah, he replies: "This law should ban the sale of alcohol to Muslims. As for non-Muslims, the shari'ah allows them to drink and make alcohol for themselves." Asked if this means with a license from an Islamic government, he answers: "Yes. But the one who manufactures and handles alcohol should be a non-Muslim."

WRITER SLAMS COMMUNISM, RUSSIAN PRESIDENT YELTSIN

Zakariya Nur's 350-word article on page 7 assails communism and the Russian president.

He begins by saying: "There is great hostility and a fierce war between communism and Islam. This is only natural because communism is a materialistic system deriving its ideology from an atheistic theory alleging that all events are attributable to economic reasons, nothing else."

He says that the treatment of Muslims in Russia, particularly at present under the leadership of President Yeltsin, "Islam's first enemy," derived from two factors. The first, he says, "is the ideological basis of the communist system that disclaims religion in general and views it as an obstacle to progress." The other factor is the "Kremlin politicians' political plans to achieve their goals, which they change from time to time to fit world conditions."

Nur concludes: "Communism, which Russia under the leadership of Yeltsin, the Muslims' enemy, is trying to revive after its disintegration and death, represents shunning all the shackles of spirituality and a rush to materialism."

SCHOLAR DISCUSSES SECULARISM, WESTERN MEDIA GOALS

On page 8, AL-NUR publishes "the second installment" of a study compiled by Dr. Muhammad al-Fayyumi, "secretary general" of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs. He discusses the philosophy of the Arab information policy, "pan-Arab and Islamic cultural tasks," and Western media's "cultural deception" in the Islamic world.

He defines secularism as the domination of materialism in society and the exclusion of anything divine, to be replaced by materialism. He notes that the domination of secularism over an Islamic society would mean that the state would be based on nonreligious foundations.

Al-Fayyumi claims that the Western media attribute their political, military, and cultural successes to secularism. The West's aim, he says, is to "negate the Islamic character so that the nation would be left with a distorted identity and history." He adds: "The Western media have managed through their organized propaganda campaigns to smear Islam and to distance it from the people."

As for the Islamic leaders, al-Fayyumi says they are stuck between affiliation to various ideologies and their peoples' aspirations for the application of Islam.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 20 Jan

NC2401214995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 January edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Prospects of Democracy Under Islam Viewed
2. Writer Comments on Israeli 'Threats'
3. 'Adil Husayn's Release Highlighted
4. Haykal on Nuclear Issue, Violence, Political Islam Future

PROSPECTS OF DEMOCRACY UNDER ISLAM VIEWED

Muslim Brotherhood writer Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, in a 1,500-word article on page 9, discusses the prospects of democracy under Islam. The article, entitled "Islam and Democracy, Between Excess and Abandonment," reviews the worldwide history of democracy and concludes that all democracies have the following common features:

"—Alternation of power under the aegis of a written constitution which specifies powers.
"—Free and honest elections for the purpose of transferring power.
"—Respect for public liberties.
"—Respect for the nation's will.
"—The unity of the nation on national public issues."

The writer says that he believes the Islamic nation will produce a new type of democracy that draws on "the mechanisms and methods established by other democracies and adds to them something new, represented by Islam as a religion and the supreme authority of society."

Regarding the status of non-Islamists in an Islamic-style democracy, al-'Aryan notes that there are two distinct groups who fit this description. He points out that there is no controversy when it comes to People of the Book—Christians and Jews—pagans, and atheists living in Arab countries who "accept the Arab Islamic culture" and simply want guarantees of political participation and freedom of belief and expression.

He adds that the other group consists of Muslims who either openly proclaim their disbelief and therefore are infidels or are opposed to Islam in secret and therefore are hypocrites. He notes that opinion is divided on what to do with this group, with some Islamic advocates urging their suppression and others favoring giving them freedom of expression since they carry no significant weight in society. Al-'Aryan favors the second option.

WRITER COMMENTS ON ISRAELI 'THREATS'

A 500-word article by Mahmud Bakri on page 10 under the title "Our Eternal Enemy" discusses the recent "war of statements between Egypt and the Zionist enemy" and the Israeli threats to punish Egypt.

Bakri says that the Israeli attitude shows that peace is an illusion and adds that those who urge normalization of ties with Israel are in the same trench with Rabin and Peres. He praises the Egyptian Government's firm position on the Israeli statements and says that "the nation must awaken from its slumber and keep the communication channels open with our Arab brothers in order to close our ranks."

He continues: "We must call on the whole of society to be on the alert, because the hour of jihad has come. Deterrence is the only language understood by this arrogant, criminal, Zionist enemy...our eternal enemy."

'ADIL HUSAYN'S RELEASE HIGHLIGHTED

AL-SHA'B highlights the release of 'Adil Husayn, its major writer and Labor Party secretary general, following almost one month in police custody. Under a banner headline reading "God is Great... 'Adil Husayn Released After the Biggest Solidarity Campaign Ever," the paper describes, in a 500-word report on page 1, how Husayn visited the Journalist Association Building the day following his release and told the journalists who were there participating in a protest sit-in that his detention failed to frighten or silence the patriotic forces and that liberty and democracy have won.

A 300-word statement on page 6 by those who participated in the sit-in hails his release. A 150-word statement on page 12 [back page], written before his release and carrying about 250 signatures spread over half the page, denounces his arrest and urges the president to intervene and set him free. A half-page photo of Husayn is published above the statement.

HAYKAL ON NUCLEAR ISSUE, VIOLENCE, POLITICAL ISLAM FUTURE

On page 3 AL-SHA'B runs a 6,000-word report by Mahmud Bakri about a lecture delivered by veteran journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal at the Cairo Book Fair on 11 January. Haykal discussed at length the decline of the Egyptian economy over the past 20 years, the slower growth rate, the lower per capita income, rising unemployment among the educated class, the growing rich-poor gap, and the pressures on the middle class. He ascribed the current phenomenon of violence in society to economic, social, and psychological factors and the "shocks" that these factors have given to the citizens. He refutes the claim that Egyptians who fought against the Soviets alongside the Afghan mujahidin are behind the current violence. To prove his point he cites the political assassinations and attempted assassinations going back to the 1940's, including the killing of two prime ministers, a senior police officer, and a senior judge in the period 1945-1948.

The paper says that another installment of the report on this lecture will be published in its next issue.

On page 6, there is a related report describing Haykal's answers to questions after the lecture. On the nuclear arms issue, he believes that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty will be renewed this year because the majority of signatories will agree to extend it. Commenting on the Egyptian stance, he said that the Egyptian Government has "taken the right step" and deserves support. However, he exprresses worry over several points, including the fact that Israel possesses "180" nuclear weapons and even if it allowed international inspectors to visit its nuclear reactors, they would see no bombs because the bombs are in storage elsewhere.

Concerning "U.S. pressures" on Egypt, Haykal said that he does not believe there are any such pressures and remarked that the Egyptians should not be "oversensitive" because of certain articles in the U.S. press including a "silly article" by Jim Hoagland.

Asked to comment on the view that if the political system in Egypt is changed, it will be done in a bloody way, Haykal answered: "I reject change by bloody means. This must be the last thing we think of or permit. While I and others speak about our hopes and envision future developments, we are doing this to avoid something else. I stand behind this regime and this man despite my disagreements with them. One of my fears is that the country will face an unknown future, the cost of which no one can foresee. If a civil war occurs, it will be horrifying. We will be enmeshed in endless disasters."

Haykal said he does not believe the future is for political Islam in Egypt, noting that involving Islam in politics in the way that it is done now is wrong.

He remarked: "Algeria is a different matter. Algerian nationalism is linked to religion; it sleeps in the lap of religion. When Algeria faced a crisis, it summoned the only weapon it had: religion. Egypt is a country where learning and reason have always played a major role. We have learning and reason in this country. Religion is an overall umbrella. The day-to-day influential factor, however, is the mind."

Palestinian Affairs

Kanafani Threatens Measures To Stop Settlement Action

JN2601191995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Palestinian

National Authority will take all measures to stop the Israeli settlement onslaught. Kanafani added that settlement building constitutes a new obstacle to the peace process and encourages extremists. He said that the Israeli Government's decision shows that it is not serious about implementing the peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Affiliated Policemen Disarmed

TA2701060895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Police force has taken action against 60 policemen belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. They have been disarmed and given instead administrative responsibilities.

An official police source told Qol Yisra'el the Palestinians will not permit political activities in the police force which is liable to bring about attacks against Israeli targets.

Hamas Leader Terms Clinton 'Enemy of Islam'

TA2601181195 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Gaza Strip Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, has criticized the U.S. decision to freeze the assets of Islamic and Palestinian institutions in the United States. Al-Zahhar added that Clinton is clearly moving to become the enemy of Islam. By this, he is not serving the interest of the American people, who are gaining an enemy for nothing. Al-Zahhar stressed that Muslims are not enemies of the American people and have never fulfilled this role. He noted that Islamic institutions in the United States are legal and have been under surveillance by U.S. security agencies. Those agencies failed to record any violations by these institutions, which prompted Clinton to freeze their assets rather than cancel their permits.

Al-Zahhar added that these institutions carry out their activities with free American Muslim citizens who have the right to spend their money in accordance with Islamic shari'ah, not on the basis of Israel's interest. Al-Zahhar pointed out that the activities of these Islamic institutions are humanitarian, confined to sponsoring orphans and poor families, establishing medical laboratories, and providing relief to Muslim victims in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, and other places.

Al-Zahhar emphasized that welcoming Clinton's foolish policy—who is expected to be defeated in the next elections and is trying to gain Jewish support—is political stupidity that will neither benefit those who express this welcome nor the interests of Muslims anywhere.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Gaza, Relations With Israel

TA2601141895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 26 Jan 95 p 11

[Report on telephone interview with DFLP Secretary General Dr. Nayif Hawatimah at his Damascus headquarters, by Smadar Peri, in Amman, on 19 January]

[FBIS Translated Text] "I hate you all; Rabin, Peres, and Netanyahu," Dr. Nayif Hawatimah hollered to me over the phone, "I hate all Jews."

If you hate all Jews, I asked, why do you want to come here? In response, Hawatimah told me that he intended to pass the phone over to his spokesman, 'Ali Badwan. "I am through with her," he shouted at the spokesman, "tell that Jewish journalist that if I want to come to Gaza that is my right. I do not intend to negotiate with the Jews. That is the business of Rabin's counterpart, the traitor 'Arafat."

From that point on, the bizarre phone call from Amman to Hawatimah's headquarters in Damascus was conducted through Badwan, the media affairs adviser. The latter was not thrilled to talk to me after I introduced myself as an Israeli journalist. "We do not speak to Jews," he said.

Sixty-year-old Hawatimah is the head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the terrorist responsible for, among other things, the 1974 Ma'alot massacre. "Tell her," he said to Badwan, "that the Jews are scandalmongers. My words were deliberately distorted. They latched onto what I said to a Russian diplomat and took advantage of it."

It was not hard to obtain Hawatimah's phone number in Damascus. Two local Jordanian journalists volunteered to give me the number. "After the scandal in Israel following his announcement that he wants to fulfill his right to go back to Gaza, Hawatimah has been constantly on the move," a local journalist told me. "He can never tell where a bad surprise may come from."

The phone call took place last Thursday. The two Jordanian journalists wanted to be present, since this gave them a chance to get a scoop: the first interview by an Israeli journalist with the secretary general of the DFLP, one of the 10 Palestinian rejectionist organizations opposed to the Oslo accords.

But Hawatimah did not deliver. Threats could get him in trouble with the Syrian authorities who are currently trying to get Syria off the U.S. list of countries abetting terrorism. Therefore, Hawatimah decided to speak to me through his spokesman. Throughout the conversation I kept hearing him say "tell her" in the background.

Does Hawatimah really want to come to Gaza? His reply was evasive: "All the Palestinians want to realize their sacred right and go back to the motherland, but the

Rabin government persists in denying the rights of many of my Palestinian brethren, including DFLP members."

Does the request relayed to a Russian diplomat to look into his possible relocation to Gaza mean that he recognizes the Oslo accords? Not at all. I am told from Damascus that neither is this the first time that Hawatimah has submitted such a request to the Russians. "The Jews do not recognize us, and there is no reason to capitulate to them. When elections are held in the territories under international supervision the real feelings will come out. It will not be like the Palestinian Authority, where people were assigned jobs without asking what the Palestinians think."

Why did Hawatimah ask the Russians (according to him, also the Americans), rather than DFLP representatives in the territories, to handle his move to Gaza. The thundering reply came through: "The Russians, as well as the Americans, are the sponsors of the accords and they should fulfill their obligations and see to the right of return. We demand to be allowed to go back unconditionally."

Does he follow press headlines in Israel? Does he realize that he is not welcome? "You, the Jews, know how to turn every issue into a scandal in order to score points with international public opinion. Sure, we read what your papers write and we reach our conclusions."

And what are they? The phone call was coming to its end and the tone on the other side became outraged. Hawatimah again hollered: "We want to go back in order to strengthen the opposition. The Oslo accords must be annulled. I hate all Jews, the Alignment and the Likud. And, I have a long-standing score to settle with the traitor 'Arafat, who signed the capitulation agreements."

Hamas, DFLP, PFLP Spokesmen Condemn Asset-Freezing

MM2701091295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p3

[Reports by 'Ali al-Salih in London and Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus: "Palestinian Organizations Deny Having Assets in United States and Accuse Clinton of Alignment With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT here reports reactions and provides some information about the Palestinian organizations and figures covered in U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to freeze the assets and financial dealings in the United States of the organizations and figures linked to what he called "acts of terrorism." [passage omitted]

[Hamas spokesman Ibrahim] Ghawshah said that Clinton's decision would affect the charities and the humanitarian aid which the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims used to send to the occupied territory for the building of hospitals, schools, and welfare of the families of the detainees and martyrs and for looking after orphans. Ghawshah stresses that Hamas has no offices in the United States, and that with this decision, the U.S. Administration exposes itself to the wrath of the Arab and Islamic peoples for doing exactly what the Zionists want.

Ghawshah adds: "We in Hamas cannot be let down by the Arab and Islamic peoples who spend out of their own pockets on the jihad and the struggle. We expect these people, who exceed 1.2 billion, to compensate for this inhumane step by the Clinton administration." [passage omitted]

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], in the words of its Political Bureau Member Dawud al-Talhami, sees the U.S. measures as political measures not financial or technical measures and that the aim is to put pressure on Arab and other states to ease the crisis of the American separate and partial solutions, especially the Oslo agreement.

As al-Talhami says that this step reflects complete U.S. alignment with more extreme Israeli policies and it demonstrates hostility toward the Palestinian people.

Al-Talhami adds that the decision is bound to have some tangible effects as far as his front is concerned but, he says, it would not affect the front's political position and its insistence on a comprehensive peace that would guarantee Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ali Mustafa, deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], says that the U.S. decision confirms the U.S. Administration's flagrant partiality with Israeli interests and hostile designs. He adds that "the front has no interests or funds in the United States, and the U.S. decision does not scare it." The front warned Washington against continuation of its flagrant aggression against the Palestinian people and their just struggle. It added that these threats would not stop the Palestinian struggle against occupation and settlement whatever the cost. It said that the United States should apply the UN resolutions to Israel instead of supporting its aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Radio Says Freezing Assets 'Punishment' for Clinton

JN2601194595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 95

["Political Touch" program: "Wrong U.S. Decision"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Clinton has issued a decision, effective immediately, freezing the assets and funds of a large number of nationalist and religious personalities in the Arab world. This decision has great significance and can be viewed in light of the following:

1. The decision has made President Clinton—who is said to be the president of the strongest country in the world—a direct executor of the estate of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist enemy. President Clinton knows better than anyone that the only record in which Rabin takes pride is the one of massacres against the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and the rest of the Arab and Islamic world. Rabin's record is full of human rights violations, usurpations of justice and adherence to falsehood, and infringements on the resolutions of international legitimacy issued by the United Nations and the Security Council.

2. The fact that President Clinton is the executor of Yitzhaq Rabin's estate has made him—in the eyes of the U.S., international, and Arab public opinion—the weakest president of the strongest country. This will deprive Clinton of the chance to run for the presidential elections once again, since the existence of the United States, as a superpower, cannot be in harmony with the presence of a weak president whose flesh is eaten daily by the Zionist lobby and the political decisionmakers in Tel Aviv.

3. The U.S. decision publicly and openly recognizes that the opponents of separate deals and the principle of the proposed settlement—which have given birth to deformed children in the Oslo accord and the Wadi al-'Arabah agreement—represent the largest, active popular sectors and that they are capable of making great achievements. This very recognition is enough to show that the U.S. Administration is facing a tough predicament. As long as the popular, active, and capable sectors that oppose the above agreements make up the majority, then what is the meaning of the agreements and how can they be safeguarded? This can only be done through official suppression and terrorism, human rights violations, brushing aside international resolutions, and continuing daily aggression. How can President Clinton be in harmony with himself and with his views on freedom and democracy and with the world public opinion in his resolve to implement what he himself wants through force, oppression, siege, and material and moral persecution?

4. President Clinton's decision has placed the United States in opposition to the Arab and Islamic nations, not to mention that he has declared a direct war against them. The forces mentioned in the U.S. decision are the forces that strongly represent the conscience of the Arab and Islamic people. They cover a large area that includes Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. These forces have vertical and horizontal extensions in large areas of the world. We do not know what objective President Clinton seeks to achieve by declaring a direct war on these forces? This is as if he is asking every Arab and Muslim to be against the United States. We think this is not in the interest of the United States and President Clinton himself.

5. The U.S. decision is naive and improvised. It was made under Zionist pressure. This is because the U.S. president knows full well that resisting humiliation and accomplished facts and confronting aggression and separate deals is not based on bank accounts and funds. The capital used in martyrdom operations is faith in one's ability to confront falsehood. President Clinton may seize the allegedly existent funds; but can he issue a decision and send it to Congress to seize the consciences of peoples and the faith of strugglers and nations that what their peoples are doing is meant to uphold justice and protect freedom and life? We think—and the U.S. President probably thinks the same thing—that it is impossible to do this. Based on this, we stress that President Clinton's punishment is a punishment for himself and his presidency. In fact, it is a punishment for his overreaction and choice to be an executor of the Yitzhaq Rabin estate—one that is full of human rights violations, the use of an iron-fist policy, and the broken bones of our Palestinian people. We are certain that what Clinton has said does not concern any of the forces he mentioned, nor does it turn a hair in the head of this nation that is resolved to embrace martyrdom so that it may live.

It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

'Operations Will Continue' Despite Asset Freeze

MM2701090495 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p 11

[Editorial: "'Terrorists' Assets in United States Frozen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President's decision to freeze the assets of 12 Palestinian organizations—among them Hamas, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and the Islamic Jihad—reflects a shortsighted and confused U.S. policy toward the Arabs, specifically the Palestinians.

The U.S. President took this step in response to Israeli pressures and after the increase in suicide operations carried out by the men of the Islamic resistance in the occupied territories, the most recent of which is the Netanya double operation, which resulted in the killing of 19 soldiers and wounding of 65, most of them seriously.

President Clinton would be mistaken if he thought that such a step will prevent Palestinians from dying for their cause. Because those who carry out such operations do not do so for the sake of money, nor do they need it. Most of the explosives with which they strap themselves during their jihad attacks are made locally and only cost a few dirhams. Those who prefer their hereafter to their life and choose the martyrdom road in such a heroic manner do not think about bank accounts in the United States or expect financial donations from anyone.

The U.S. President is also wrong when he describes these as terrorists, equating them with real terrorist Zionist movements like Kakh. Because there is a huge difference between them. Those who defend their land and honor are not terrorists.

It may help to remind Clinton that his country supported—with both money and arms—the Contra group against the legitimate Nicaraguan Government, not regarding this group as a terrorist organization. According to President Clinton's definition, George Washington, leader of the U.S. liberation war against British colonialism, is considered a terrorist, not a national hero according to all the other definitions, including ours and that of all free men in the worlds.

The real terrorism that needs real U.S. efforts to confront it is the growing illegal Zionist settlement [-building] in the occupied territories. Those who confiscate a piece of land, build a settlement, and bring emigrants from all over the world to settle there are the real terrorists. In fact they are the most dangerous terrorists in the universe.

As for the assets that should be frozen, they are the assets of the Jewish organizations collecting donations to build and expand settlements in the occupied territories. These organizations are active in the United States and Western Europe in particular.

Clinton's steps confirm once again that he is the most Zionist president in U.S. history, as he is implementing Israeli policies in the Arab region to the letter.

We had expected him to exert pressure on his Israeli allies who have thwarted the peace process sponsored by his government and who have forced the most moderate and friendly—with the United States—Arab leaders like President Husni Mubarak to express discontent and look for alternatives, having realized that Israel wants the land, peace, normalization, and military supremacy without offering any concessions to the Arabs in return.

The certain thing is that Clinton's freezing of the assets of Palestinian organizations and figures will not have the desired impact. Not because there are no assets, but because operations in the occupied Arab territories will continue and escalate as long as the occupation and its subsequent results—settlement, repression, and terror—are continuing.

Algeria

FLN Statement Urges Government To Accept Peace Proposals

NC2601135395 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Jan 26 (AFP)—The National Liberation Front (FLN), formerly Algeria's sole ruling party, called Thursday [26 January] on the government to accept peace proposals made by the opposition to end a Moslem fundamentalist insurrection.

The political bureau of the FLN, in a statement made available to AFP, warned that "the policy of confrontation and political blockage, if it persists, is a threat to the security and stability of the region."

The party called on the military-backed regime to study proposals made earlier this month by the religious and secular opposition at a conference in Rome, which the government has already rejected.

The FLN took part in the talks with other secular opposition parties and the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), whose armed supporters launched an insurrection early in 1992 after the army intervened to bring about the cancellation of the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

The five-page Rome document, described as a "national contract", calls for negotiations with the government, an end to violence, torture and state of emergency measures and the release of political prisoners.

The FLN statement said the contract was "a major contribution to open the way for a joint and serious search by the authorities and opposition parties to give fruit to a political and peaceful settlement to the crisis."

"This contribution by opposition parties constitutes proof of the possibility of agreement on the essential questions raised by the crisis, without excluding any political force, whatever the differences may be among programmes and social projects," the statement added.

The government has declared the Rome document as an unacceptable mish-mash—without totally rejecting it out of hand—and denounced it as playing into the hands of the FIS, but the office of President Liamine Zeroual has not made any formal comment on the text, signed on January 13.

The deputy leader of the FIS, Ali Belhadj, stated his support for the plan in a handwritten letter released on Wednesday, the day the presidency was officially notified of it.

Belhadj, who is under house arrest in Algiers, said the document had been signed by legitimate political parties which were engaged in finding a just ending to the crisis. But, in the letter, dated January 20, he rejected President Liamine Zeroual's plans to hold presidential elections before the end of the year.

Belhadj's letter, published in newspapers Wednesday, also said "the right of a constructive opposition to exist is guaranteed by Islamic law, as well as guarantees of human rights and public liberties".

Belhadj had previously given his support for armed groups in a letter discovered on the body of former Armed Islamic Group (GIA) chief Cherif Gousmi, according to the Algerian authorities. Gousmi was shot dead last September.

Apart from the government, the Rome pact has also been rejected by Algeria's two armed opposition groups, the radical GIA and the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), the armed wing of FIS.

The Rome text was signed by representatives of eight groups including the FIS, the FLN, the Socialist Forces' Front (FFS), and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA).

It was signed two weeks ago in Rome after talks hosted by the Catholic community of Sant'Egidio. At least 20,000 people have been killed in Algeria since the cancellation of the elections in January 1992.

Prime Minister on 'Terrorism,' Dialogue, Elections

LD2601212695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1145 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi by unidentified correspondents on 26 January; place not given; from the "Forum" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Mohand Saou] Good morning ladies and gentlemen. The guest of today's "Forum" is the prime minister. This Thursday's program will be divided into four parts: Terrorism, the national dialogue, the presidential elections, and all aspects related to their preparation and the economic recovery. We will seek your reaction, Mokdad Sifi, to two current issues, Tamazight [Berber language] and the Audit Court.

Hassan Dafir, from Channel Three of Algiers radio and Kheirddine, a colleague from "Liberte" will participate in this program.

First of all, good morning Mr. Sifi and welcome to this program.

[Sifi] Good morning gentlemen.

[Saou] [passage omitted] During the month of Ramadan in 1994 we witnessed an increase in the number of terrorist operations. Here is the first question to kick off the debate: Will special measures be taken this year to strengthen security?

[Sifi] You made several observations and raised many issues at the same time. Please allow me to proceed slowly and go back to some points. You said that my government was appointed during difficult conditions, a situation that I would describe as exceptional. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Sifi, you have just described your government's approach. You mentioned the current big issues, particularly the economy and security. Allow me to suggest that we start with the security issue. This is a problem in which everyone is interested. Here is a very precise question: Ramadan is one week away. The number of terrorist operations last year [during Ramadan], if we remember, increased sharply. Will you take special measures this year to strengthen security?

[Sifi] What I know is that additional special measures have been taken during the last few months and the situation has been improving generally. Well, it is not enough to say it is improving, one should perhaps put the question to the people who are living in difficult situations with regard to security. The question should perhaps be put to the population of Jijel, Constantine, Oran etc. You will notice that the situation has clearly improved. But still, the security problem is not managed only by the security actions of the security services.

This problem has deep causes and it is managed also through the government's global approach, which seeks to pull the country out of the crisis. A political approach is also under way. Immense efforts are deployed in this field. There is also an economic approach that seeks to bring back the confidence of the population. One should also notice that the situation improved thanks to the contribution of the population. This has been noticed by everyone. All countries go through some kind of crisis under one form or another. There is not a single country which, through its development, has not experienced a serious crisis of an economic or political origin. [passage omitted] So one should not minimize this crisis, nor exaggerate it. We should transcend it and have a long-term perspective. So one day, and I hope this will be in the next few months, we will pull out of this crisis.

[Correspondent] Mr. Sifi, your government spokesman, Mr. Attaf, declared on 23 November last that the security situation will be brought under control. Two months later, we are witnessing an increase in the number of terrorist actions, which leads the population to be pessimistic.

[Sifi] The situation is being brought under control at a global level, that is throughout the whole year. Yes, spectacular terrorist actions have taken place but the overall situation is better than it was last month. Of course when an action is spectacular, it has more effect. One can say that there has been an increase in terrorism, but at a spectacular level. But in reality and in terms of a general assessment, the situation is becoming more and more controlled. When the spokesman, Mr. Attaf said that the situation will be brought under control, this did not mean within a week or a month. The situation will be brought under control and will increasingly become controlled.

[Correspondent] Could you give us a date for the end of this security problem, particularly in view of the forthcoming presidential elections?

[Sifi] I said a short while ago that when we pull out of the crisis—and I hope this will happen within the next few months—this security problem will persist for a while. This means that we are not about to get rid of terrorism and organized crime in a few months. But everything is relative. Organized crime exists elsewhere in other countries. But the situation will improve and be brought under control in such a way as to allow the organization of elections and allow the population to vote freely. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Sifi, I have another question related to the security problem. Seven officials have been sacked following the results of the inquiry into the Airbus A-300 hijacking. There was mention of professional mistakes. Could you give us more details on the nature of these mistakes?

[Sifi] There was no mention of professional mistakes but shortcomings. These were shortcomings in management. They are mentioned in the report on this inquiry and measures have been taken to sanction those who in one way or another were behind these shortcomings or did not encourage improvement. These are brief details concerning this issue.

[Correspondent] Are the measures taken against these people limited to sacking, or will judicial actions be initiated against them?

[Sifi] No, things have not reached that stage. We noticed shortcomings in management. These people were not the cause of what happened. There were inadequacies in management and administrative sanctions were applied.

[Correspondent] We will now begin the second part of our program about the national dialogue. You have rejected the Rome Sant'Egidio platform, while stating that the dialogue remained open. The question is this: When this dialogue reopens, with whom will it be conducted, under what form, and what will it discuss?

[Sifi] Everyone has more or less been associated with this dialogue, including the people, particularly. What do you want me to tell you? Should I refer you to the population's reaction? Are my statements better, more truthful, and providing more details than the population's reaction?

I only take this opportunity to recall things that are fundamental. What is more important in this country, in our dear Algeria? Is it the public authorities? Is it the political parties? Is it the associations? Is it the government's program? Is it what is being said abroad? Is it what happened at Sant'Egidio? Where are the people in all this? There is a tendency to forget all about the people. The people have reacted.

I would like to stress something on this subject. What is dialogue? What is the aim of the dialogue? Does it aim at power- sharing or does it aim—as the national consensus platform stated—at going to elections, united, and in complete agreement? What is dialogue? It is about agreeing on the way these elections are organized and how they are prepared and what guarantees for them to be free. The rest, power-sharing, or power itself, it is up to the sovereign people to decide on the rightful holder. Consequently, the elections are what I called the invariant result of the dialogue.

Whatever the dialogue may be, the result is the elections, except that if we do not set dates, we run the risk of going round in circles, locked in debate for years and years. Has any side, whoever that may be, the right to abandon the people in this situation? There is a date, which is the end of the year for the presidential elections. Meanwhile the dialogue remains open. The head of state was very clear about this. The dialogue should be conducted as to lead us to the elections.

[Correspondent] Mr. Sifi, the government spokesman and the interior minister have said publicly that they have compromising information on the leaders of the opposition, of the political parties, leaders of parties who attended the Sant'Egidio meeting. My question is: Do you agree with this line?

[Sifi] I think that light has been thrown on this by some of the foreign press, and even the Algerian press, which have mentioned this aspect. I would not go further than the interior minister and the government spokesman on this subject. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] A lot of chairmen of executive delegations [government-appointed local officials] are worried about the security question for the elections. How is the government going to approach this problem? Is it just going to go for a reinforcement of security, or does it plan to introduce other kinds of measures to ensure that the elections take place properly?

[Sifi] The elections are now being prepared, as you know, and measures will be taken according to the reality on the ground. We have not finished preparing these elections. Places where there are shortcomings will be taken into account so that adequate measures can be taken.

[Correspondent] Suppose the situation remains as it is now during the presidential elections—in other words that most of the political groups refuse to take part. We will then have a situation where the candidates may not be truly representative of the people. Has this situation been planned for by your government, and if so, what position will you take?

[Sifi] We are in the process of doing everything we can to avoid this eventuality. [passage omitted] You cannot settle everything with "ifs" and "supposings." What we need is...[pauses] Some people say: Is it going to work? We have to do all we can to ensure that it does work. We will do all we can—or at least as far as the government is concerned—and I am sure that the people will also help to see that it works. We have to do all we can, and I believe that—well it is true that this is the government's responsibility, but it is the duty of every citizen to do everything possible to get us out of this situation and to ensure that we have all the necessary conditions for the elections to take place and for us to put an end to this once and for all. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The CNT [Transitional National Council] is not representative of the political class. Is there not a risk that the opposition may challenge the electoral law adopted by the CNT, since the CNT can introduce amendments to draft legislation?

[Sifi] The legislation will not be submitted only to the CNT, it will be submitted to the parties too so that they may make the necessary contributions and express their outlook on the electoral law. So the opinion of the parties will be taken into account.

[Correspondent] But there is a risk that the CNT may distort the bill.

[Sifi] Why should it? It did not distort the finance bill, it did not distort...[pauses] Why start from the premise that it will distort the bill?

[Correspondent] Insofar as people do not regard it as being representative of the political class. The electoral bill should be the result of a consensus.

[Sifi] But who represents what, if you want to put things in terms of representation?

[Correspondent] Let me put it in a different way: It is said that a large part of the CNT is composed of people linked politically to those parties that attended the Rome meeting. So is there not a risk that it might block the electoral bill?

[Sifi] I do not think so. Why see problems everywhere? I do not think so. We have worked with the CNT. It is made up of Algerians who love their country, and who work—who have a consistent record of good work to date. [passage omitted] I do not think there will be any problems in that regard, and if the parties put forward objective proposals pointing toward a way out of the crisis, I do not see any reason why the government or the CNT should not accept such proposals. There may be disagreement on minor matters of detail, on where to place the commas and the full stops, but the essential thing to us is the fundamental goal of ensuring that the elections are the freest possible, and that they are very democratically open to every party and every side.

[Correspondent] Before we go into the last section of the interview—on the economy and the recovery, I would like to deal briefly with the Tamazight question. The MCB, or Berber Cultural Movement, has put forward a demand to which the government responded by setting up a commission to consider ways and means to include Tamazight in the school syllabus. However the school strike called by the MCB in support of its demand is still going on. What I would like to ask you is: What is preventing the government, or the state, at this specific moment, what is preventing the state or the government from responding to the demand?

[Sifi] Well, you are sticking to generalizations. What is the demand? The demand on every mouth and every placard since before the beginning of the school year, was "Tamazight in the syllabus." The head of the government, on behalf of the state, said, "alright, Tamazight in the syllabus." As to the question of how to get Tamazight into the syllabus, let us all consider it together. Hence the setting up of the commission. [passage omitted]

During the discussions we realized that a commission made up of young people's representatives might not be technically equipped for the task of introducing Tamazight in the syllabus, and that we needed a national council for the promotion of Tamazight, a council whose brief goes further than the commission's, for not only will it be in charge of the ways and means to teach Tamazight in schools but it will also be in charge of promoting Tamazight—the language and the culture.

The demand calls for the recognition of Tamazight as an official national language, on the same footing as the Arab language. That is the demand. [passage omitted] The designation of an official national language is laid down in the Constitution. Has this government the authority to change the Constitution? I do not know.

The problem is one of developing and promoting the Tamazight language, and this must be done. I believe that the best way of achieving this is to take steps at a school level to see that it is taught, and to work in the area of research to develop this language and reconstruct it, especially since it is spoken more or less differently in different regions. [passage omitted]

Parties, National Figures Asked To Enrich Election Bill

LD2601202995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency today issued a statement that says: The head of state has announced in his speech to the nation on the occasion of the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the glorious November revolution his decision to hold presidential elections before the end of 1995. Mahfud Manane reads out the text of the statement:

[Manane] Those elections will enable the Algerian people to express in complete openness its free, democratic, and sovereign choice. They will also be falling within the framework of the efforts to resolve the crisis facing the country.

Those elections will, furthermore, be another step toward the strengthening of the republican, democratic, and pluralist Algerian state, as well as justice—a state that will guarantee the country's sovereignty and integrity and the freedom and basic rights of every citizen, and a state that will glorify Islam within the context of respecting the teachings of the living true religion as the Algerian people has understood for centuries.

Since the announcement of such a decision, the government has tirelessly been trying to provide the necessary conditions to hold the presidential elections in an atmosphere of rigor, freedom of choice, and clarity of options. Hence, a governmental committee has been tirelessly working on this matter since the beginning of this year, and it should report its findings before the end of the first half of this year.

At the same time, the head of state has announced his intention to revive dialogue and consultation about everything connected with the presidential elections, their credibility and success, as well as their legal framework and political aspect.

The head of state has, however, reviewed such a matter at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 25 December 94, and in his speech to the country on 29 December 94.

On the two occasions, the head of state reiterated his readiness for dialogue in the same vein as when he addressed the political parties at their meeting on 29 October 94, when he insisted on a structured, principled, and purposeful dialogue.

Within this context, the presidency circulated on Thursday 16 January 1995, to all recognized political parties, organizations, and national figures a memorandum inviting them to begin consultation and dialogue about the mechanisms for holding the presidential elections. The full text of the memorandum was given to the national press.

As the memorandum asserted, such a dialogue will be open and without any prejudice; it will cover everything to do with the presidential elections, be it their legal framework or any other matter that has something to do with the good running of such elections, including an end to the violence that the government, despite its repeated initiatives, is still waiting contribution from everyone and anyone. The parties, which have received this document, have been asked to send their proposals, comments, and contributions to the presidency at a date not later then 11 February 95.

Afterward, a meeting will be held to deepen the dialogue before a revised election draft law is drawn and presented to the Transitional National Council.

Further on Presidency Statement

LD2601222395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2100 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidency of the state this evening released the text of a memorandum it has sent to all the legal political parties on the subject of presidential elections. In a separate communique the presidency reiterates that the presidential election will be aimed at enabling the people of Algeria to express their free, democratic and sovereign choice. The details from Mohamed Khadim:

[Khadim] Regarding the revision of the electoral law, there will be a first phase before the draft revised electoral law is submitted to the Transition National Council, for which the memorandum puts forward a series of proposals on the provisions for the presidential election. It invites the parties to send in their comments and responses to these proposals in writing before 11 February.

For a second phase the memorandum envisages a series of meetings aimed at deepening the consultation on the various aspects pertaining to the holding of the presidential election.

In the framework of these consultations the memorandum also invites contributions from everyone on the subject of ending the violence, this being the one guarantee of success for the elections.

Dembri Comments on Elections

LD2601231095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri, minister of foreign affairs, stated in Rome this evening that his counterpart in the Vatican, Most Reverend Jean-Louis Tauran, understood very well that the political process in Algeria was on the right path. He added, in a news conference held in Rome this evening, that Most Reverend Jean-Louis Taurant was convinced that the Algerian Government and the head of state, in particular, were heading on the right path to bring about national consensus.

Mr. Dembri pointed out, furthermore, that the current process would bring about legitimacy through the holding of presidential elections before the end of this year and insisted that there was nothing to be negotiated between the state and the political formations. He pointed out, however, that mechanisms for the consecration of the forthcoming presidential elections should be discussed.

It is expected that Mr. Dembri will meet his Italian counterpart tomorrow.

Egypt

PLO's 'Arafat Visits for 'Brief Working Visit'

Arrives in Cairo

NC2701083295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo from Amman this morning on a brief working visit. He will brief President Mubarak on developments in the Palestinian National Authority areas and on the outcome of his talks with King Husayn of Jordan.

President 'Arafat was greeted at Cairo Airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2701090695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a session of bilateral talks in the Presidential Office this morning. The talks were confined to the two leaders.

President 'Arafat arrived in Cairo earlier today and headed immediately for the Presidential Office.

Delegations Join Talks

NC2701100195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat resumed their talks today after members of the Egyptian and Palestinian delegations joined in.

The bilateral session of talks between Mubarak and 'Arafat lasted an hour and a half before the two delegations joined them.

Attending the talks on the Egyptian side were Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador in Cairo, represented the Palestinian side.

'Arafat Leaves Cairo

NC2701110895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo at noon today after a visit of several hours during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at Cairo Airport by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Information Minister al-Sharif said the talks between Mubarak and 'Arafat dealt with the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian discussions to enhance the peace process. He added that President 'Arafat reviewed the results of his talks in Jordan with King Husayn on Palestinian-Jordanian cooperation and coordination and the agreement signed between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. of the recent [meeting] between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Police, 'Terrorists' Clash in Various Areas

'Leading Terrorist' Killed in Suhaj

NC2601134595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Suhaj, 26 Jan (MENA)—An active terrorist was killed today in the railway area of al-Mansha in Suhaj Governorate during a confrontation with the security forces.

Information received confirmed that fugitive terrorist 'Atif Sharif was in Markaz al-Manshah. When the security forces raided the area he opened fire and the security forces fired back immediately, killing him.

Terrorist 'Atif Sharif, whose real name is 'Ali Muhammad Hasan, was one of the leading terrorist figures in Upper Egypt. He was unemployed and was born in al-Walidiyah, Asyut, and accused of involvement in several recent terrorist incidents.

The security forces found a pistol and a police officer's machine gun on him. The machine gun belonged to police officer Fu'ad Khalil Abu-al-Hasan, who came from Qina Governorate and was martyred in one of the Upper Egypt train operations.

The Public Prosecutor's Office has been informed so that it can begin its investigation.

Fugitive Killed in Bani Suwayf

NC2601171395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—A fugitive terrorist was killed in al-Fashn city, in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of Bani Suwayf, when State Security Intelligence men stormed a hideout in pursuit of fugitive elements.

A responsible security source has stated that information received by the State Security Intelligence Department indicated that terrorist Khalid Ibrahim Dawud, who was wanted in connection with a number of terrorist incidents recently committed in al-Minya, was in hiding. Following legal procedures, the counterterrorism unit of the State Security Intelligence Department, from one of its secret bases in Upper Egypt, closed in on the den in al-Fashn where the fugitive terrorist was hiding. When security force attempted to attack the hideout, the aforementioned terrorist hurled a hand grenade at the force. A detective was wounded by shrapnel and taken to the hospital. The terrorist returned the fire, killing him. The prosecutor has been notified to initiate an investigation.

4 Islamic Militants Killed in al-Minya

NC2701112195 Paris AFP in English 1011 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 27 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces shot dead four Islamic militants and a policeman was wounded in a clash in the troubled southern province of al-Minya on Friday, police said.

They said police arrested four other Muslim fundamentalist suspects.

Islamic militants have waged a war to topple the government of President Husni Mubarak since March 1992. The confrontation has claimed 610 lives, according to an AFP toll compiled from police reports.

6 Policemen Killed in al-Minya

NC2701120595 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, Jan 27 (AFP)—Six policemen and four Islamic militants were killed in clashes in the troubled southern Egyptian province of al-Minya on Friday, police said.

They said the policemen were killed in Abu Qurqas and the militants in a separate clash in the town of al-Minya itself.

Writer Discusses U.S. Stance on Nuclear NPT

NC2601135595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-'Azim Hammad: "Arbitrary Nuclear Separation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are not accusing the United States of seeking to disarm Egypt or other Arab countries of their nuclear weapons while keeping the Israeli nuclear arsenal in place. The reason we are not making this accusation is our realization that the prevention of nuclear proliferation is a global and not a Middle Eastern U.S. policy. The U.S. Middle Eastern policy entails a commitment to the existence of Israel and its military superiority over all Arab countries—nuclear superiority is not necessarily part of this commitment—and to achieving a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The question raised in this context is that Egypt and most non-nuclear developing nations support the principle of nuclear nonproliferation. They are in agreement with the United States on the objective. So where is the problem in the current confrontation between the non-nuclear nations and the United States over the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]? In my view, the problem lies in the U.S. arbitrary separation of the global and regional aspects in this issue. Robert

Pelletreau, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East Affairs, fell victim to this "arbitrary separation" before he came to the region, beginning his tour in Cairo. He called on the countries that signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty during its first period of validity, which began in 1970 and ended this year, to not link the renewal of the treaty to the stands of other countries. In other words, he called on Egypt, for instance, not to make its signing of the treaty contingent upon Israel joining it.

If we accept this logic, it means that Pakistan, for instance, has to join the Nuclear NPT regardless of whether India joins it and that India should join it irrespective of if the PRC and Pakistan join. This approach may seem practical from the U.S. point of view to salvage all that can be of the diplomacy of preventing nuclear proliferation. However, the problem in this approach from the point of view of the countries required to sacrifice their security to achieve this U.S. goal is considered to be a crime against the rights of their peoples and the coming generations. For no politician in bombs on their borders or about nuclear nonproliferation in all parts of the world.

Paper: Mosad Expects War With Egypt in 8-10 Years

NC2601140295 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 23 Jan 95 p 5

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni: "Mosad Report Confirms it: A War Between Egypt and Israel in 8 Years"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The [Israeli] military intelligence has prepared a report, a copy of which was handed to the Israeli Cabinet, on the likelihood of an Arab-Israeli war. The report ruled out any military battles with Syria in the near future. But it estimated that in eight to 10 years there would be a war with Egypt if the cold peace between the two countries continues.

Some informed sources expect the Israeli Cabinet, in its meeting this week, to form a minicommittee to study the report.

Libya

No NPT Renewal Unless Israel Destroys Its Weapons

LD2601141595 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In rejection of a humiliating existence under the bayonets of the Israelis and their nuclear hegemony, JANA's political editor stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah will not sign the renewal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] unless it adheres precisely to ridding the region completely of nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons of mass destruction, in addition to destroying the Israeli enemy's entire arsenal of these weapons.

The editor stressed support for the Egyptian Arab stance in refusing to sign this treaty unless the enemy signs it first, despite the recent U.S. pressures and threats which nobody found strange, particularly since the U.S. Government was the one which stood with all its might behind the enemy's possession of weapons of mass destruction, and helped it consolidate its arsenal of these weapons, at a time when it put strong pressure on the Arabs to sign the order of their own slaughter publicly and in broad daylight.

The editor called on the Arab countries to commit themselves not to sign this treaty, which it has become evident was utilized against the Arabs only, no doubt with the aim of annihilating them.

JANA's political editor pointed out that the Arab countries are today required to stand firm beside Egypt in its pan-Arab stance. They must adopt a unified, strong, and serious stance to force the Israeli enemy to sign, and destroy its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction in all its kinds, and they must reject the U.S. pressures and threats which everyone is sure are aimed at leading the Arabs en masse to the slaughter.

Thus, the Great Jamahiriyah has stressed the need to destroy the nuclear, chemical, and bacteriological weapons of mass destruction, and to forbid the manufacture, possession, or use of all types of weapons.

In a statement at the meeting of the preparatory committee of the conference of the countries that are signatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in New York yesterday, the delegation of the Great Jamahiriyah stressed the need for the Israeli enemy to join this treaty, destroy its nuclear arsenal, and put its nuclear installations under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The delegation pointed out that the Israelis' possession of weapons of mass destruction is bound to expose the Arab region to a nuclear disaster, and threaten Arab national security.

Protocol on Cooperation Signed With Algeria

LD2601194595 Tripoli JANA in English 1837 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar 26, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—A protocol was signed today in Tripoli for cooperation between the Great Jamahiriya and Algeria.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Older and by Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif the minister of the interior, local communities, environment and administrative reform in sisterly Algeria.

The protocol aims at the enhancement of brotherly cooperation established between the two sisterly countries for the joint common benefit of the people of the one Arab nation in both the Great Jamahiriya and Algeria.

Morocco

Filali Discusses EU Mediterranean Policy

BR2701124795 Paris LE FIGARO (LE FIGARO-ECONOMIE Supplement) in French 26 Jan 95 p13

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali by Marie-France Calle; place and date not given: "Abdellatif Filali: 'Europe Must Help Maghreb To Prevent Illegal Immigration'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Calle] When taking over the European presidency French officials said they intended to reactivate Europe's Mediterranean policy. What do you expect from this policy, and what is your country's position today vis-a-vis Europe?

[Filali] I read with great interest the statements by Mr. Lamassoure [minister delegate for European affairs] and Mr. Juppe [foreign minister] on the role France intends to play in the Mediterranean problem and on the plans for a conference on the Mediterranean to be held in Lisbon under the Spanish presidency.

The Mediterranean problem is currently in the news, but there are a number of ambiguous points: It is not known if it is being viewed in terms of security or development. As far as we are concerned, we have always been against the Community's so-called renovated Mediterranean policy. We explained this at length to Jacques Delors in the past, as well as to various ministers.

There are two main reasons for this. On the one hand, following the membership of Spain and Portugal, the Community made the mistake of defining a comprehensive Mediterranean policy. It gave a general mandate to the Commission and sketched out a single cooperation scheme with the entire Mediterranean area, failing to take the specific features of each country into account. We felt that Morocco had closer relations with Europe than do other countries in the region. Our trade with the Community was between 55 and 60 percent. Moreover, with the membership of Spain and Portugal, we have become Europe's main partner in fisheries, because the largest fisheries agreement signed by Brussels was signed with Morocco.

The second reason is that the Mediterranean problem cannot be put on an equal footing. It is a development problem, and we have to face up to it. If certain countries in the region are experiencing serious crises, then this is the underlying problem—because fundamentalism and Islamism have their roots in underdevelopment, unemployment, and poverty.

Morocco Is Open to Everyone

Morocco feels that when there is talk of a partnership account must also be taken of this situation. Europe must contribute an especially large amount of aid. This is in its interest since at stake is the prevention of illegal immigration, something which nobody will have the resources to control. Europe's interest therefore is to keep these people in place by enabling the countries concerned to create jobs. We could develop joint ventures or encourage the European private sector to make investments there. A country like Morocco is open to everyone. Long before the European Council meeting in Essen we said that a new look needed to be taken at the Mediterranean problem.

[Calle] At what point did you get the feeling that a "new look" needed to be taken at Europe's Mediterranean policy.

[Filali] After the fall of the Berlin Wall everyone said—in the Commission and in the member states—that Europe should take an interest in the European countries that had just been liberated from the yoke of communism, but this did not mean it was going to abandon the Southern area. We have seen that that was just talk. Just look at the European Union's statistics: It currently spends ECU8 per inhabitant in Eastern Europe, compared to ECU2.5 in the Southern area, whereas the talk had been about maintaining a certain balance.

[Calle] Are you concerned about the entry of three new countries—by definition not oriented toward the Mediterranean—into the European Union on 1 January 1995?

[Filali] No, because as amazing as it may seem, countries like Sweden and Finland have already let us know that they are very interested in the situation in the Southern Mediterranean—even though they do not have any strategic interests in our region.

[Calle] What are you expecting from the French presidency? Perhaps an opportunity to move beyond the talk and achieve more intense economic cooperation?

[Filali] I hope so because before the Essen summit the Community proposed that Community aid to the southern part of the Mediterranean should be increased to ECU5 billion. I regret the fact that no decision was made on this matter at the summit, whereas aid to Eastern Europe was ratified. I hope that the French presidency will express its determination to clear up this problem. I repeat, it is in everyone's interest.

In addition we must initiate the negotiation of a new agreement with the Union. This poses an enormous amount of problems. We are still waiting for a response to the memorandum that we submitted to the Commission concerning our position on this new agreement. Here too, I hope that the French presidency will give impetus to this so that we can make progress. When one talks about partnership, there must be real substance. The current cooperation agreement is almost 20 years old. In the meantime Morocco and the European Union have changed. Our country has experienced economic development in the agricultural and industrial sectors. There is also another very important matter to deal with:

fisheries. We must reach an agreement by April. We do not understand why France, England, and Ireland are banning Spanish and Portuguese fleets from fishing in their waters when those two countries are members of the European Union. Why is this the case if Europe is a vast market?

[Calle] What would be the most advantageous agreement from Morocco's point of view?

[Filali] Morocco is a developing country. It has certain strengths and certain weaknesses. It must take advantage of its potential in order to accelerate development, reduce unemployment, and boost exports, because there too we have imbalance. As for fisheries, attitudes have to change. Morocco is rich in fish, and it is natural that it should try to take advantage of this in order to develop. Europe must help Morocco develop the fisheries sector and the allied agri-foods sector—the philosophy being that in so doing Europe will be helping Morocco to develop.

[Calle] The recent tomato crisis highlighted the problem of the post-GATT era for Morocco. How far will you go to resolve it?

[Filali] I think there were some misunderstandings by the Commission and by us. The agreement currently linking Morocco to the European Union talks about acquired rights. In other words, when there is any change we must keep our rights. We all signed the GATT agreement, and we had to adapt the maintenance of these rights. For the European Union it was a matter of confirming Morocco's rights. The negotiation of the new agreement is another problem, and the negotiation has not yet begun. I am especially hopeful that we will find a working arrangement with Spain, our neighbors in the North who are our partners and our competitors in agriculture. I do not think it is in Spain's interests to penalize Morocco, which is just 10 km from its borders. We have to see more than just the mercantile side of things in our relations with our neighbors.

Maintenance of Financial Balance

[Calle] Domestically your government's priorities have leaned toward privatization, the implementation of measures likely to encourage investment, and the development of a stock exchange. What is Morocco's ambition today?

[Filali] To maintain financial balance. For 10 years Morocco made many sacrifices in order to fall in line with IMF requirements—perhaps too many. The IMF and the World Bank made mistakes. They were not aware of the social aspect of the situation. However, it is not possible to maintain high deficits without harming the country's economic and social stability. The second ambition is to have the state withdraw completely from managing the economy. This does not mean that [economic] liberalism is the answer to everything, but since its independence the Moroccan state has been forced to do many things. There were not enough executives, savings were too low, and so on. This is no longer the case today and Moroccan private enterprise must be able to take responsibility for the country's economy. For example it is up to businesses to find a solution to unemployment, even if they do so with state aid.

We have already privatized virtually all the hotels that used to belong to the state. We are currently privatizing the Moroccan Foreign Trade Bank, the country's second largest bank. This will be followed by the Popular Bank—Morocco's largest bank—and others. The privatization program stretches to 1996.

Large chunks of the economy will be transferred to the private sector, both Moroccan and foreign. Foreign investors are interested in Morocco's political stability and in the steps we are currently taking to encourage foreign investment: There is a bill on a Labor Code and company law. Commercial courts will be set up.

[Calle] In social terms can you ask the people to make extra efforts after 10 years of a very tough structural adjustment plan? Does that not risk leading to a high-risk situation, especially with the neighboring example of Algeria?

[Filali] I do not think we can ask the people to make more of an effort. On the contrary, we must find solutions to certain urgent problems. Today there is a dialogue between the government and the trade unions. This dialogue is based on a certain level of confidence. The government is aware that an effort has to be made for the most disadvantaged groups, but the trade unions are aware that they cannot ask for the impossible, given the country's situation. This dialogue between the government and trade unions must be expanded, but it must also be expanded between the trade unions and the employers.

I do not believe we will be contaminated by Algeria. Morocco does not have the same identity problems as Algeria. Moreover, in Morocco we have not let just any old economic model be imposed on us. In the 1960's we had disputes with the World Bank because of this. It did not understand why we were determined to give such an important role for agriculture, but it was wrong because at that time more than 60 percent of the population lived off of agriculture. There was no question of making industry for industry's sake. We therefore stuck by our agricultural plans so that we would not abandon this 60 percent of the population, while at the same time launching major industrial projects such as phosphates, steelmaking, and so on.

Sudan

Envoy Reacts to Amnesty Human Rights Abuse Claims

LD2601171895 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been a very negative reaction from the Sudanese authorities to the

Amnesty International report yesterday accusing Khartoum of covering up or even organizing numerous violations of human rights in both the south and north of the country. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese ambassador to France Nur al-Din Satti gave this comment to Chantal Lorho:

[Begin recording] [Satti] We are very sorry that Amnesty International should have published this report without having learned about the reality of the facts on the ground in Sudan. The Sudanese Government has taken very serious and very specific measures to ensure respect for human rights in Sudan. If, in the distant past, there were a few political detentions, I can assure you that today there are no political detentions in Sudan. Sudan can be proud of being one of the few countries that does not have political prisoners in their prisons today.

[Lorho] Since you have nothing to be ashamed of, do you agree to Amnesty's proposal that it should send international observers to Sudan, who would monitor respect for human rights?

[Satti] I really do not see how we could accept observers from outside to impose anything on us, or to monitor anything. Because respect for human rights is something imposed from within.

We trust the institutions we have set up, and we really cannot see a need to send international observers. No-one has anything to teach us on this subject. [end recording]

Bahrain

Opposition Group Claims Protesters Tortured to Death

NC2601132895 Paris AFP in English 1227 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 26 (AFP)—Several people arrested after clashes between security forces and demonstrators in Bahrain have been tortured to death in prison, a Bahraini opposition group charged Thursday [26 January].

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), in a statement received in Tehran, said the number of arrests since violence erupted in the Gulf archipelago last month had topped 2,700.

The prisoners undergo "physical and psychological torture and a number of prisoners have died under torture," it said. The group did not specify how many people had died or give their names.

Clashes broke out in mid-December between Bahraini security forces and opposition demonstrators demanding the restoration of the parliament and constitution, suspended since 1975.

The fighting killed 16 people, according to the opposition, but Bahraini authorities have only reported one death.

The Shiite Moslem group urged the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the conditions in Bahrain's prisons and determine the fate of prisoners and those injured in clashes with security forces.

"The families of the prisoners have been denied all information and have themselves been threatened by the authorities," it said.

The group, headed by Lebanon-based Shaykh 'Ali Mahfuz, also said that a total of 13 protesters had either been expelled from Bahrain or prevented from entering the country since the onset of the violence.

Shaykh 'Ali Salman, a Shiite cleric whose arrest on December 5 sparked the unrest, was deported to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates on January 15, along with two other clerics, Hamzah al-Diri and Haydar Sitri.

He has since travelled to Britain and asked for political asylum.

IFLB called on the international community to "immediately intervene" and urge the Sunni Moslem-led government in Bahrain to end the arrests, deportations and alleged torture of prisoners.

Amir Says Foreign Intervention Behind Unrest

NC2601222895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has expressed his profound appreciation for President Husni Mubarak's sincere wish for Bahraini stability and his unceasing efforts to establish concord among the various peoples of the Arab nation.

He said he feels grateful for President Mubarak's telephone call during the recent events in Bahrain to inquire about what was happening. He noted that the Bahraini people value the Egyptian people's support. He announced that he will visit Egypt after 'Id al-Fitr [late February—early March].

The amir of Bahrain declared that the recent regrettable incidents in his country are over and done with. Ascribing these events to foreign intervention, he regretted the exaggerations and lies disseminated by certain newspapers about these events. He said, however, that he has confidence in the Egyptian press.

In an interview jointly published by the newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH in Friday's issue [27 January], the amir of Bahrain remarked that his country is following with great interest President Mubarak's efforts to promote Arab reconciliation. He said Bahrain values these efforts.

The amir declared: We have followed with close attention President Mubarak's initiative to hold the Alexandria summit with the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The amir of Bahrain told AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH: I cannot find the words to fully express my appreciation for Egypt and President Mubarak. He took pains to telephone me while the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit was convening in Manama in December to inquire about the regrettable incidents in the country which had just started.

His excellency described President Mubarak as a man who fulfills his promises and whose deeds are equal to his words. He referred to Mubarak's outstanding stance during the Gulf crisis.

Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman declared that the recent events in Bahrain were the result of some foreign countries' interference in domestic Bahraini affairs. He expressed dismay at this interference and also at the exaggerations and lies that were evident in the positions adopted by some newspapers during the Bahraini incidents.

He said that Bahrain believes in total frankness and presents the facts to the public without distortion and hence it found the way in which the events were misrepresented by some quarters quite painful. He affirmed that matters have returned to normal and everything is now over. He voiced hope that some people will not again interfere in Bahraini affairs.

The amir of Bahrain emphasized that his country welcomes the steps that have already been made to restore inter-Arab solidarity but pointed out that this requires openness and sound preparation for an Arab summit conference.

In related remarks, Bahraini heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah has told reporters that, God willing, Arab solidarity will be restored at the hands of President Mubarak, who with his stature, patience, exceptional character, and his ability to handle issues in a brotherly fashion, is able to make it a reality.

The Bahraini heir apparent revealed some secrets about the recent events in his country. He affirmed that what occurred was not directed against Bahrain alone but actually reflected the designs that certain circles have on the Gulf countries. He urged the GCC countries to bridge the existing gaps in their positions and work together on all fronts.

Shaykh Hamad affirmed that the Bahraini people were united against the recent events and indeed the public's reaction to the incidents constituted a new declaration of allegiance to the government.

He denied that the recent incidents had any sectarian character. Asked about the prospects for solving the disagreement between Bahrain and Qatar in line with the GCC summit's resolution stating that the member states should seek to settle their differences on a bilateral basis, the Bahraini heir apparent explained that the wisdom of this resolution lies in encouraging the GCC members to show that they can solve their own problems. He said that Qatar did not reject this resolution or express reservations about it but rather backed it. Shaykh Hamad noted, however, that Bahrain was astonished by a later statement by the Qatari foreign minister when, during a visit to Iran, he said things that contradicted what the GCC heads of state had agreed upon.

The Bahraini heir apparent explained the substance of the resolution in question, including the need to eliminate all obstacles that block a solution to the Bahraini-Qatari dispute within a year after the adoption of the resolution, and in the event a solution cannot be reached even then, the GCC's next summit would take it upon itself to form a conflict management authority that would tackle the Bahraini-Qatari disagreement. He explained that such an authority would solicit the assistance of experts from the Gulf and other Arab countries, including Egypt.

He said that the Gulf nations prefer to reach bilateral solutions among themselves and find them more satisfying. He noted that solutions brought about by legal expertise fail to take into account the nature of the Gulf people. He affirmed that the solution that is needed is one that will satisfy both countries and the region as a whole. He stressed that a solution reached by the Gulf countries themselves would be better than the current course which the Bahraini-Qatari conflict has now taken and explained that the two countries disagree on the manner in which the issue found its way to the International Court of Justice.

Oman

*Sultan Qabus Condemns Extremism in Islam

95LH0065A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Dec 94 pp 18-19

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id chose the city of Nazwa to celebrate the 24th national day anniversary. On the occasion, he delivered an important speech, which he opened by noting that celebration of the national day marking the renaissance of the modern Oman in this city of deep roots is tantamount to an act to honor the city's cultural and intellectual role. Sultan Qabus added, "We started the building and development march not long ago. This country's weapon in its battle against all elements of backwardness and in the face of all challenges has been the firm resolve and the strong determination that the country's citizens have shown in working to ensure victory and to overcome obstacles. Through devoted efforts and sincere work and through solidarity and mutual support between the leadership and the citizens, the generous offers of the renaissance have extended to every part of our pure soil, spurring abundance and growth and promising a happier and more glorious future."

Noting the significance of heritage, Sultan Qabus said, "The designation of a heritage year is nothing but a means through which we have sought to focus attention on heritage; to ignite the flame of appreciation for this heritage in the citizens' minds; and to entrench deep inside them the permanent feeling that their present is tied to their past and that their future is nothing but the outcome of their past and present efforts."

The sultan of Oman touched on the accomplishments of the renaissance in various fields, beginning with what has been accomplished in education because of its role in bolstering, as a major objective, the Omani citizen's capability of serving his country. He said, "This education has to be tied to the nation's culture, civilization, and historical heritage on the one hand and, on the other hand, to the programs and technologies of the age. This is why schools and institutes have been established throughout the sultanate and why they are increasing and becoming more diverse." In this regard, Sultan Qabus announced the establishment of a shari'ah and law college in Muscat to train specialists in shari'ah and legal sciences, thus giving rise to a generation of qualified people who can shoulder the responsibility in this area with utter capability. In addition to this institute, a study is currently underway to establish a higher judiciary institute in Nazwa to train shari'ah and law judges from among people who have college degrees in shari'ah and law. Sultan Qabus added, "Future challenges are numerous and big. The educational system must work hard to accomplish the goal for which it was established. It must develop its capabilities in order to be able to keep pace with the cultural procession in all fields."

Radicalism and Fanaticism

Sultan Qabus also dealt with the importance of security and stability to the construction and development process and to society's progress. He stressed that a government's most important duties, whether in the past or in the present, are to guarantee security and ensure stability, because, "if security is disturbed and if the mainstays of stability become shaky, then the outcome will be anarchy, destruction, and perdition for both nation and citizen." The sultan called on every citizen to be a loyal guard protecting the country's accomplishments, which have been made with the martyrs' blood, urging him not to permit intruding ideas masked behind glittering slogans to pose a threat to the country's security and stability. The sultan also urged the citizen to beware of and to caution against these ideas that seek to shake the existence of the nation.

Denouncing radicalism and fanaticism, Sultan Qabus said, "Radicalism, no matter what name it is given; fanaticism, no matter what form it takes; and factionalism, whatever its motives and starting points, are hateful poisonous weeds rejected by Oman's good soil, which grows nothing but what is good and which absolutely refuses to let the seeds of division and dissension be planted in it."

Sultan Qabus added, "God, may He be praised and exalted, revealed the Koran with wisdom and clarity and included in it the general principles and comprehensive rules of the dictates of the shari'ah. God did not touch on the particulars of issues that can change with the change of time and place in order to give Muslims the opportunity to develop independent judgments in the area of religious knowledge and understanding. God did not touch on the particulars so that Muslims will devise rules for whatever new facts arise, depending on their environments and on the age in which they live, while adhering closely to the general principles and comprehensive rules. When Islam proliferated in the post-apostle eras, new issues emerged and Muslims needed to know what the shari'ah dictated regarding those issues. So what did they do? They resorted to independent judgment and devised appropriate rules. As a result, we have this rich and varied heritage of jurisprudence of which we are proud. Muslims proved that the shari'ah is capable of dealing with various circumstances in various environments. However, the Muslims' backwardness in the eras of decline caused them to fossilize their legacy of opinions of jurisprudence. Despite the change of time, they did not try to renew those opinions according to and within the bounds of the principles and rules established by the orthodox shari'ah. Moreover, they did not try, except rarely, to devise appropriate religious rules for new issues cropping up in their lives. The least that one can say about this rigidity, which Muslims accepted in those eras, is that it is not compatible with Islam's character. Islam calls for intellectual development and for confronting the challenges of every age and every environment with appropriate logical solutions that employ the principles for devising rules that serve the Islamic society. It is truly regrettable that this rigidity, which led to the nation's weakness as a result of stagnation in its intellectual movement and mental activity, has produced in recent years a kind of radicalism that is due to the lack of sound and full knowledge of the faith among Muslim youth. Consequently, some have exploited this radicalism to commit violent acts and to promote controversial issues that can lead only to division, dissension, and hatred. Therefore, and so Muslims will not lag behind while others advance, they are required by the shari'ah to obviate this condition. They are required to keep pace with the age through renewed and developed Islamic ideas based on a modern interpretation that is committed to the principles of the faith; that is capable of providing the right and appropriate solutions to problems that disturb today's Islamic societies; and that can show the entire world the true nature of Islam and the essence of its immortal shari'ah, which fits every time and place. A narrow-minded understanding of the faith can only lead to backwardness of Muslims, to the proliferation of violence, and to intolerance in Muslim societies. Such understanding is, in fact, far from Islamic thought, which rejects excess and prohibits sternness, because Islam is a moderate faith and because it likes moderation in all matters. The Prophet, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, was true when he said, "The faith is facile, but whoever fights it will be vanquished." The Prophet's word is final.

Sultan Qabus then moved on with his speech to foreign policy. He reminded his listeners of the sultanate's consistent positions, noting that the international community has become more convinced than ever that armed conflict is no longer useful and that it even impedes their growth and threatens world peace and security. He added, "But in another respect, we find, regrettably, that man's brutality to himself has begun to emerge at a lesser level, embodied in a new struggle, cruelty embraced by one segment against other segments of the same society." The sultan called for cooperation among states to put an end to this domestic violence that threatens society's fabric in many parts of the world. Sultan Qabus also talked of the Middle East peace process, asserting, "Peace is a principle in which we have believed, and it is a demand we seek to achieve, without abandonment and without excess." He added, "We have all followed the various peace tracks of the Middle East issue. The important steps accomplished along the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks have given the world an ideal model that merits praise from all. Israel is required today more than ever before to take steps along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks so comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and from southern Lebanon can be accomplished."

Sultan Qabus took this occasion to laud the "role of the fraternal Jordan and of its monarch, His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, in bolstering the peace process and the positive results emanating from it."

Concluding his speech, the sultan addressed a special greeting to the armed forces and to all the security agencies that keep a watchful eye in order to ensure the stability of the Omani society and to safeguard the accomplishments of its blessed renaissance.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi, Yemeni Teams Near Conclusion of Accord

MM2601115295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mustafa Shihab and Iqbal 'Abdallah: "Riyadh and Sanaa Putting Final Touches to Joint Paper"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, Aden, Washington, AL-HAYAH—The Saudi-Yemeni talks in Riyadh are expected to reach a good conclusion today. The two sides are expected to crystallize a joint paper on their views over the various outstanding issues between the two countries.

A source from the Yemeni delegation told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the meeting between the two delegations yesterday—which was headed from the Saudi side by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and from the Yemeni side by House of Representative Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar—resulted in an agreement to hold a joint meeting this morning between the two negotiating teams to crystallize a paper, to be followed by a higher-level meeting to ratify it. [passage omitted]

The Yemeni source said that an optimistic atmosphere is dominating the two delegations' meetings, pointing out that the decision to hold today's meetings was taken after the two sides jointly studied the two working papers exchanged the day before yesterday.

The source said that during the meeting between Prince Sa'ud and Shaykh al-Ahmar, which was attended by members of the two delegations, it appeared that the points of agreement in the two papers were numerous. The two sides expressed their determination to continue the dialogue until a joint paper is agreed upon. The Yemeni source believes that it is a matter of time, pointing out that the points of disagreement "are too minor to obstruct the agreement ship sailed by the two delegations."

The source said that the dialogue between the two sides covered all issues, including the border question, to which most of the time was devoted. The source reemphasized that discussions in this connection were based on the al-Ta'if agreement, which the source said "is continuing between the two countries, and there is no need for it to be renewed as rumored by media services." The source added that his country "looks at this agreement in a comprehensive way that goes beyond the border question to what is deeper so as to include all aspects of relations between the two countries." The source did not rule out that tomorrow's meeting could result in an agreement dealing with the border question and set a date for the summit meeting to be held between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, which Shaykh al-Ahmar expects to take place before the month of Ramadan begins, that is within a week. [passage omitted]

'Source' Says Reports on Border Dispute 'Baseless'

LD2601183095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1757 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—With reference to reports carried by some foreign news agencies on the return of tension to the Yemeni-Saudi border, an official source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation made a statement to Saudi Press Agency, SPA, saying this news reported by some foreign news agencies, quoting Yemeni sources, as they said, were totally baseless.

He added that negotiations between the two sides were progressing well in a good fraternal atmosphere to reach a common view over all that serves the interests of the two countries and peoples.

Paper Sees 'Real Value' of U.S. Move on Assets

MM2701111095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 95 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Besieging the Organizations Financially"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his interview with the NEW YORKER, the Egyptian president did not hesitate to level charges against the U.S. Government. He frankly blamed it for harboring armed oppositionists of his country while talking about fighting terrorism and pursuing perpetrators of violence.

Harboring armed opposition movements is indeed a dangerous game. They have sometimes threatened U.S. security and were proven to have moved their operations to U.S. territory. As we recall, the most significant incident was the bombing of the International Trade Center in New York. According to the U.S. prosecution investigators, there were plans to carry out even more serious bombings in the same city.

The U.S. Government has finally taken a political stand against the opposition movements which resort to violence, and it has decided to freeze their assets in the United States. President Bill Clinton has issued his order against the organizations accused of terrorism, a mixture of Islamic, Jewish, and communist organizations mostly linked to activities in the Middle East.

The American step seems to be of symbolic political significance meant to reassure the governments which are angry with the U.S. Government, indirectly accusing it of protecting and perhaps even supporting these organizations.

But even that symbolic step has some real value. The targeted organizations are not so stupid as to deposit their assets in their names openly or in the names of known figures who could be pursued by intelligence officers. It is just possible that the other major world states might follow the U.S. example by imposing financial restrictions on the activities of these parties and organizations on the list. That would make it more than just a symbolic decision. We should also not forget that the parties which had suffered at the hands of these organizations will watch and try to expose the movement of the assets of these organizations because they know that money plays a significant part in their survival and ability to act.

There are those who believe that what gave these organizations sharp teeth was their ability to collect funds for the purchase of arms, training, travel, and propaganda. Without funds, they would not have been able to expand and act effectively as we saw in our regime. But the U.S. President's decision does not mean severing political links with these organizations, despite the new offensive.

Yemen

Developments, Statements on Border Dispute Reported

Al-Iryani Urges Peaceful Solution

JN2601131295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended a lunch banquet hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations in New York at noon yesterday as the guest of honor at a day-long seminar held under the slogan [words indistinct].

Richard Murphy, former U.S. assistant secretary of state and member of the Council, introduced Dr. al-Iryani to the audience. Dr. al-Iryani discussed developments in our country and the region as well as the development of relations with the neighboring states.

Dr. al-Iryani responded to a number of questions on the situation in our country since the establishment of Yemeni unity in May 1990, including the political crisis and the secessionist war in which our Yemeni people triumphed and entrenched their unity.

He said that Yemeni unity is today stronger than the day it was declared. Regarding the Yemeni-Saudi relations, the brother deputy prime minister and foreign minister asserted that resolving the border problem and normalizing relations between both countries are in the interest of stability in this vital region.

Dr. al-Iryani also asserted that the al-Ta'if agreement is [words indistinct] the overall Yemeni-Saudi relations, including the border issues. He indicated that a just peaceful solution to the border dispute between the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must be based on the al-Ta'if agreement and the [words indistinct] annexed to it, led by the principles of international law.

The luncheon and the seminar were attended by brother Ambassador 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our country's permanent representative at the United Nations, and a number of businessmen, academicians, journalists, and specialists in the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf studies.

'Grave Concern' Over Saudi Troop Movements

JN2601132395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political and military quarters in Yemen have voiced grave concern over the Saudi troop concentrations which have been taking place along the border areas between the two countries. These quarters view the continuing Saudi troop concentrations as an attempt to perturb the talks under way in Riyadh by a ranking Yemeni-Saudi joint commitee.

In this respect, Yemeni military sources in Sanaa last night reported massive Saudi troop movements two days ago toward the borders with Yemen. These sources said that the Saudis moved tanks, missile launchers, armored vehicles, and infantry forces opposite the al-Buq'ah area in the Sa'dah Governorate, and in the al-Sharurah and al-Wadi'ah areas in the direction of Hadhramaut. The sources added that the troop concentrations consisted of moving several F-15 and F-16 fighters, and helicopter gunships of the (Hadi) type from their bases in Tabuk to military bases in the Khamis Mushayt and Jizan areas, in the southern part of Saudi Arabia.

Diplomatic sources in Sanaa say that the fresh troop concentrations on the borders with Yemen take place while a Yemeni delegation under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives, is holding talks in Riyadh with Saudi officials in response to the mediation of Syria, Egypt, and western countries to eliminate the tension that has been prevailing on the borders between the two countries over the past two weeks following Yemen's complaint that the Saudi Government is annexing its territories and violating its independence.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had sent a letter to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid explaining the latest developments on the Yemeni-Saudi borders.

Delegation Member Optimistic About Accord

MM2601151195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr and Mustafa Shihab: "Approval of Saudi-Yemeni Paper Postponed, Consultations Continuing"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—The optimistic possibilities announced by members of the Yemeni negotiating delegation in Riyadh regarding a joint Saudi-Yemeni paper on the two countries' views on the various outstanding issues have been postponed. And it seems that the expanded meeting—which was expected to conclude the meetings and to be attended by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives—has also been postponed until today. [passage omitted]

A member of the Yemeni delegation has told AL-HAYAH that consultations are continuing over the joint paper, which, Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal [Yemeni deputy prime minister and member of the delegation] told AL-HAYAH, will be tantamount to a working paper to be ratified by the upcoming summit between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The Yemeni delegation member insisted on playing down the differences. He said that the two sides are determined to reach an agreement. He expected that matters will be settled today and that a date will be set for the summit in the light of that.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday Dr. Ba-Jammal hinted at the possibility of a postponement. He said that the meetings were open to all possibilities and that time "will not be an excuse for haste. We will use it positively."

Ba-Jammal said that the two proposals (meaning the two papers) submitted by the two delegations do not represent a dispute, but, rather, an exchange of views. He said that what is written in the papers is no longer disputed matters. He stressed that the meetings have not witnessed any disagreements.

He said that the close approximation between the two countries' views prompted an agreement to abolish the old method, which relied on exchanging papers. And that it has been agreed to form one team to prepare the joint paper, which he said will be the version to be produced by the summit between King Fahd and the Yemeni president.

Ba-Jammal stressed the importance of the talks being held in Riyadh and their future effect on Saudi-Yemeni relations. He said that "the talks will open a new phase in relations, and they will benefit all the Arabian peninsula, which is our big home."

He said, "we are seeking a peaceful life for all and to formulate a relationship of lasting friendship and cooperation." [passage omitted]

Saudi Border Concentrations Continue

JN2601184095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni military sources have reiterated that the Saudis have not stopped their military concentrations on the border between the two countries. Meanwhile, bilateral talks have been going on in Riyadh over the past five days within the framework of the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee to reach reasonable solutions to the border dispute between the two countries and to defuse tension in the border area.

In the first reaction to these developments, sources in the Yemeni Government said that they regret such developments, which come following days of calm on the border between the two countries and at a time when talks are being held in Riyadh between a Yemeni delegation led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, and officials in the Saudi Government on the suspended issues between the two countries.

The sources said they did not want to interpret the Saudi military concentrations as an expression of the Saudi brothers' views regarding the bilateral talks.

In this respect, the Yemeni Government sources expressed their hope that the Saudi brothers will resort to reason in order to spare the two fraternal countries and people, as well as the entire region, the dangers of conflict over problems that can be solved through fraternal dialogue and within the framework of the one Arab community. These sources reiterated the desire of the Yemeni Government and people to resolve the border dispute with Saudi Arabia through peaceful means and not to resort to force so as to guarantee the legal and historical rights of both parties.

Yemeni military sources confirmed the Saudi military concentrations on the border with Yemen. The sources said that over the past two days, the Saudis have moved infantry and tank brigades, missile launchers, artillery, and U.S.-made F-15 and F-16 fighter planes to positions 3 km from the Yemeni border positions. The military sources said that the military situation was about to explode yesterday afternoon between the Saudi troops and Yemeni patrols in the border areas close to the Yemeni al-Buq'ah. However, the problem was contained with great difficulty.

In a subsequent development, informed sources in Sanaa said that the joint Yemeni-Saudi committee continued its talks and that the Yemeni Government has not been informed of anything contrary to this. The sources expressed hope that the Saudi military concentrations will stop so that the talks will continue in a calm and sound atmosphere.

House Speaker Plays Down Dispute

LD2601184995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan—In response to a question put to him by the Saudi Press Agency on Western media reports quoting Yemeni political and military sources on the Saudi military buildup on the borders with Yemen, His Excellency Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, the speaker of the Yemeni National Assembly, said:

Anyhow, we do regret the statements reported by some news agencies and newspapers that there is tension on the borders between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, we do regret such propagating and rumors.

We accuse those propagating these rumors of being biased people who want to affect the the progress of the brotherly talks under way between Yemen and sisterly Saudi Arabia.

Regarding the story of the military buildup, it has been confirmed from higher military sources in Saudi Arabia and Yemen that there is no military buildup, that the situation is normal, and that everybody is eager to preserve the brotherhood and the bilateral cooperation and reach solutions to all the problems and restore the relations to what they used to be in the interest of the two countries.

Salih on 'Efforts' To Remove 'Tension'

JN2601205295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, today visited the University of Sanaa. He met with the university president, deans, and staff. [passage omitted]

The brother president spoke about developments in the national and regional arenas, primarily developments between our country and the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also highlighted the efforts being made by our country to remove the tension and resolve all problems through brotherly dialogue and understanding in a way that guarantees the sovereignty and legitimate rights of all parties and provides security, stability, and peace for the region.

The brother president also reviewed mediation efforts by the brothers and friends in order to contain the dispute, noting our country's positive response to these efforts and goodwill in order to thwart all schemes that seek to ignite a fire in the region. The brother president highlighted the plots against our country to abort unity, noting the Yemeni people's solidarity and efforts to defeat the conspiracy of secession and quell the sedition ignited by the traitorous secessionists in the country.

He added: Now that our people have consolidated their unity, they have moved from the minor jihad to the greater jihad, namely, self-control and overcoming challenges, particularly economic challenges.

Bajamal on Building Ties With Saudis

MM2501143795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 6

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Qadir Bajamal, deputy prime minister, planning and development minister, and member of the Yemeni delegation to Saudi Arabia, by Sulayman Nimr in Riyadh; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Nimr] What are the results of your meeting with Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz?

[Bajamal] I believe that the mere meeting with Prince Sultan is of great benefit to both countries. As for the results, they are more than we expected in terms of the existence of full basis of understanding over all current issues.

[Nimr] Have working committees actually been formed to discuss border problems and the problems concerning relations between the two countries?

[Bajamal] Yes, that is the two parties' intention—namely to form higher committees and technical committees with more powers and high-level experts.

[Nimr] Is Yemen calling for the return of the joint higher committee between the two countries?

[Bajamal] Without doubt when relations are open and there are no reservations about anything in them, any formations are bound to be better than ordinary formations.

[Nimr] Can we say that the tension that occurred some two weeks ago on the border between the two countries has been eliminated completely?

[Bajamal] Indeed it has been eliminated. Furthermore, the two parties have the desire to control the situation fully so that it will not lead to any misunderstanding over the fringe areas.

[Nimr] Does that mean that security committees will be formed in the border areas?

[Bajamal] Yes, in principle, and in my view that is the practical way. If you want to put a certain situation under control, those concerned with the matter in the areas themselves should be aware of what is happening, granting them greater powers to enable them to solve the problems on the border one by one.

[Nimr] We have learned that preparations are being made to conclude a final agreement on the border demarcation and to solve border problems in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. Is this what is happening now?

[Bajamal] What is happening now before anything else is agreeing on an initial and technical formula for a scenario of a solution process, be it at the political or border level. I believe that, if we agree on the principles and the general legal and technical framework of a solution, application matters become subject to numerous things which have long been affected by some problems, namely for 60 years—that is since the 1934 agreement. For example, Yemen was not unified then. It is now. This is why we have the same view of the border issue—an integrated, not divided, view. We can talk about an agreement only when discussions are about one part. As you know, Yemeni history does not at all allow any party in power—whether in the north or the south—to resolve border issues singlehandedly. This is why border issues remained outstanding, because none of the Yemeni parties is entitled to speak in the name of all Yemenis.

[Nimr] But a Saudi-Yemeni committee was formed, and several meetings were held for the sake of solving border problems.

[Bajamal] We should not forget that we are affected by what is around us and the crises we have experienced since the establishment of unity. We are human and affected by this and that.

[Nimr] What do you mean exactly?

[Bajamal] We need time in order to talk about that away from these influences which emerge from time to time. We want to ensure that there is a friendly and adequate natural atmosphere to enable us to talk. That is what brings about natural intentions and a sound move toward solving the problems.

[Nimr] In your capacity as Yemeni deputy prime minister, is Yemen willing to recognize the 1934 al-Ta'if agreement, and under what conditions?

[Bajamal] We believe that all Yemeni-Saudi or other agreements represent an integrated system, and everyone should recognize both rights and duties at the same time.

[Nimr] So the two parties have rights and duties as regards implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Bajamal] Yes, exactly. We are talking about an agreement which is 60 years old. Many changes have taken place in life during this period. Numerous features and generations have emerged, people have experienced numerous political whirlpools, and Yemeni unity was achieved recently. Therefore, I believe there are two main rules in this context: First, the Yemeni border is a whole and cannot be divided. Second, the al-Ta'if agreement, as the president ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih) said recently during his European tour, is an integrated system.

[Nimr] But according to my knowledge, you are calling for normalizing relations and restoring joint cooperation councils in order to resolve the border question.

[Bajamal] That requires a calm and cordial atmosphere. How can anyone embark on a complete reconciliation action to solve the problems between generations charged with hatred and hostilities in the absence of an atmosphere facilitating that? I believe that the Saudi brothers are aware of this. These conditions—not only in the Arabian peninsula, but throughout the Arab homeland—require a cordial and sincere atmosphere.

[Nimr] You believe that an adequate atmosphere should be prepared in order to solve all problems.

[Bajamal] This visit is one of the things we are doing to that end. And so is the preparation for a visit President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is going to make to the kingdom. I believe that we are creating that atmosphere. The meeting with Prince Sultan was excellent. It was dominated by a friendly atmosphere. It produced numerous positive aspects, and it opens a window of hope vis-a-vis solving our problems in an open, clear, and friendly manner and without any delay.

[Nimr] Are you working to draw up a final agreement between Saudi Arabia and Yemen to be signed by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz during the Yemeni president's upcoming visit to Riyadh?

[Bajamal] If we achieve something of that kind, it will be a great step toward opening a new era for Saudi-Yemeni relations.

[Nimr] Is there any hope?

[Bajamal] We hope so.

[Nimr] When do you expect the Yemeni president's visit to take place?

[Bajamal] That depends on several things: With good preparation I believe that the door will be open at any time for the two leaders' meeting.

UN Asked To Reconsider Contract Citing CIA Ties

JN2701065495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2007 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 26 Jan (INA)—Iraq has once again asked UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to reconsider the contract concluded between the U.S. Evergreen Company and the UNIKOM [United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] mission. This is in order to ensure continued cooperation between UNIKOM and Iraq and to avoid the use of the planes of the aforementioned company for purposes other those set for it.

Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN ambassador, provided Dr. Butrus-Ghali with some new information which exposes the suspect relationship between the Evergreen Company for international navigation and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA.

In a letter to this effect handed to the UN secretary general yesterday, Wednesday [25 January], Iraq's representative revealed that this company has carried out a number of activities and secret operations for the CIA in various countries, such as Vietnam and Korea.

The message cites THE WASHINGTON POST and the U.S. periodical SECRET ACTION [al-'amal al-sirri] as publishing the details of the relationship between the CIA and this company, which has a full record through history in terms of cooperating with American intelligence and rendering services to it.

Press reports in the United States have recently revealed that Evergreen played a blatant game to win the contract with the United Nations instead of a Canadian company to supply the UNIKOM with three helicopters, together with their American pilots, in order to carry out espionage operations in Iraqi airspace in the interest of American intelligence.

Immediately after assuming their duties with the UNIKOM, the planes of this company flew over the Port of Khawr al-Zubayr outside the buffer zone, violating Iraq's airspace and sovereignty.

Iraq strongly protested this serious action in a letter it sent to Butrus Ghali and stressed that such actions are viewed as a flagrant violation of the duties the UNIKOM has assigned to these planes.

SAIRI Leader on 'Action Plan for Change'

MM2501155995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jan 95 p 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Al-Hakim To Leave for Geneva Today To Hold Meetings at UN Mission"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has stressed that "the field action plan for change in Iraq" requires the selection of "a group of figures from influential quarters" in the opposition in order to assume "the management of this action."

He told AL-HAYAH that he will depart London today for Geneva, where he will meet with "UN officials (European headquarters) and officials from international organizations such as the Red Cross in order to discuss the issue of the Iraqi people and how to help them."

Al-Hakim said that "the states neighboring Iraq (Iran, Turkey, and Syria) do not encourage the Kurdish infighting because it harms their security." He believes that "the way out of the fighting in northern Iraq lies in turning the area into a base for the Iraqi opposition process." He pointed to the existence of "a general understanding that there is an undeclared ban on any military move by the opposition from the north, hence there is a state of self-retreat (among the Kurds) and preoccupation with domestic issues."

He reiterated that the opposition has "new opportunities to achieve change. The Army cannot do it on its own. It needs people's cooperation."

He said that the differences among opposition ranks "are over side issues and merely differences of opinion." And they are "natural, and there are no differences at present except what is happening among the Kurdish brothers." Al-Hakim said that he has not submitted to the Iranian Government his plan for change in Iraq which he hopes one of the parties will be able to achieve. He reiterated his previous reservations about the "makeup" of the Unified Iraqi National Congress. He added that some parties participated in the congress "but not on a representational basis—which is a problem for these parties." He went on to say that "the opposition in its present status has a great opportunity to make a change if it agrees on an action plan."

Asked about the interruption in the Syrian-Turkish-Iranian ministerial meetings devoted to a discussion of conditions in Iraq, he said that he did not know the reasons for this interruption. "But it is likely that the three states (Syria, Turkey, and Iran) are now somewhat assured that there is no intention to partition Iraq, especially as the Kurds have stressed to everyone that they have no such intention."

Al-Hakim pointed out that relations between Syria and the SAIRI, and the Iraqi opposition in general, are "good." He said that "Damascus is now very busy with the so-called Middle East issue."

The SAIRI (based in Tehran) chairman said that Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, spiritual guide of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is the one most likely to win—and the "strongest candidate" in Iran for—the source of emulation post [highest religious authority] abroad. [passage omitted]

Opposition Attacks Army's Divisional Headquarters

NC2501161195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A jihad group staged a heroic operation last week to mark the birthday of hidden Imam al-Mahdi, may God expedite his auspicious advent, and to commemorate the blessed uprising of Sha'ban.

This was reported by the newspaper AL-SHAHADAH, organ of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. It said that the heroic group attacked tyrant Saddam's Khalid Ibn-al-Walid Division headquarters near Suq Hittin, which is near al-Ma'qil in al-Basrah governorate. Sources told the paper that the attack caused heavy losses among the regime's henchmen who were in the headquarters at the time. Following the attack, the regime's emergency forces surrounded the area and searched for the jihad group, but it returned safely to base.

Four Soldiers Captured in 'Mujahidin' Attack

NC2501173895 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic Revolution unit of mujahidin has attacked an (?EVA) military vehicle that attempted to approach our mujahidin's positions in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. The vehicle was completely destroyed and four of its passengers from the 51st Infantry Brigade were captured. They are noncommissioned officer Khaz'al 'Awdah from Hayy al-Husayn area in al-Basrah governorate, Hadi 'Awdah Latif, from al-Ma'qil area in al-Basrah governorate, Sa'd Tamir Muhallal from al-Thawrah city in Baghdad, and 'Atiyah Lafti Shayyafi from al-Thawrah city in Baghdad.

Conscription Reduced for Non-Deserters

JN2701105695 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Mashriq 'Ali Haydar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighter Staff Lieutenant General Ahmad Ibrahim Hammash, assistant to the chief of staff for administration, has said in an exclusive statement to AL-QADISIYAH that leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, ordered the reduction of military conscription by one month for draftees who do not desert throughout their military service.

He added that the Defense Ministry has begun necessary administrative procedures to implement this order.

He said the president's order has come within the concern of his excellency with consolidating the sense of responsibility among our army's sons and to urge them to carry out the military service in a perfect manner. His excellency had ordered granting draftee and reservist soldiers who complete their military service well one year's salary when they end their service.

Progress of al-Basrah Irrigation Projects Reviewed

JN2501134995 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 14 Jan 95 p 4

[Article by Raysan al-Fahd]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Basrah—Al-Basrah Governorate's Irrigation Department continues to implement projects aimed at improving agriculture and expanding cultivated areas in the governorate. The projects are estimated to cost 86 million dinars.

Making this announcement, Governor Latif Mahal Humud said: The irrigation projects include building 19 kilometers of canals and installing three water pumps to draw water from al-'Izz River in order to reclaim an area of 12,000 donums at a cost of 13.9 million dinars. Al-Faw Company, which is carrying out this project, has so far executed 37 percent of its assignment.

The governor also said: Al-Faw Company workers are also carrying out a reconstruction project west of Shatt al-'Arab at a cost of 29 million dinars. The project involves resurrecting damaged orchards in Abi al-Khasib, al-Sibah, and al-Faw, digging out 50 kilometers of extinct rivers, dredging 25 kilometers of other rivers, building 45 tunnels, erecting embankments on several rivers to prevent flooding, and leveling 500 donums of land. So far, 35 percent of this project has been executed.

The governor added: To prevent weathering out of embankments due to the breaking of waves on the eastern bank of al-'Izz River, these embankments are being raised and widened according to the original plan up to a length of 24 kilometers at a cost of 42 million dinars. This project is also being carried out by al-Faw Company.

The governor continued: Work is also continuing to reinforce weak embankments on other rivers, by filling up gaps in these embankments and thus preventing flooding. The Irrigation Department is also active on other fronts. It is carrying out a campaign to dredge a number of rivers in the Districts of Saddamiyat al-Qurnah and al-Madinah and the Subdistricts of al-Dayr and al-Nashwah in order to obtain sufficient water for irrigating wheat and barley fields. So far, 30 kilometers of rivers have been dredged. The department has previously carried out a similar project to reclaim 20,000 donums in Saddamiyat al-Qurnah. The project involved raising the shutting sluice on al-Ghamij River and laying pipes with shutters to control its water flow and level, building a canal linking between al-Ghamij and al-Shafi Rivers, and building several crossings. The project, which cost 1.49 million dinars, was completed in 22 days.

Rabin Explains Remarks on Separation

TA2701061095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin says he did not mean building a fence when he spoke of separation with the Palestinians. Rather, he had intended disengagement and economic independency with the possibility of living side by side. He told a Labor party gathering in Tel Aviv that the intermingling of Palestinians and Israelis was an opening for terrorism. In his view, the psychological barrier which has resulted from the enmity and bloodshed is the main obstacle to resolving the conflict.

The prime minister added that Israel was determined not to give up the prospect for peace. He repeated there would be no return to the pre-1967 borders, and Jerusalem would remain united.

Rabin on Election in Territories, IDF Pullout

TA2701093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believes that elections in the territories and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pullout from the center of Palestinian towns will not occur any time soon. He made this assessment in a meeting with Likud faction leaders held at his bureau last week.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in the meeting the prime minister revealed that he had presented two alternatives to 'Arafat—holding elections in the territories while IDF troops remain closeted in their bases that day and redeploy immediately afterward, or conducting prolonged negotiations on a full interim arrangement that will include an IDF redeployment—and he chose the latter. 'Arafat believes that the negotiations will last four months, while Mr. Rabin thinks they will last much longer.

Rabin Aides Deny Imminent Cabinet Reshuffle

TA2601161595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 95 p 7

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin instructed his aides to announce publicly that he has no intention of playing "musical chairs" with his cabinet.

Rumors about Rabin's plans to reshuffle his cabinet have been rife for a few days. Consequently, the prime minister took an unusual step and invited Labor ministers to a rare dinner meeting at his home next Sunday.

Last night Rabin decided to put off the dinner in view of the fact that it falls one week after the Bet Lid Junction attack. It was learned from Rabin's bureau that the dinner will be held at some later date in the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

The rumors, which nevertheless persist, say that Rabin intends to appoint former Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq as police minister and give the interior portfolio to Moshe Shahal. Other rumors have it that Rabin intends to promote Minister Efrayim Sne to a more prominent position which will enable him to be involved in the process with the Palestinians.

However, on Rabin's instructions, his close aides asserted yesterday that he has no intention of carrying out a reshuffle.

"It is sheer nonsense," said Eytan Haber, the director of Rabin's office.

Rabin Said Not Opposed to U.S. Embassy Move

TA2701113095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Hemi Shalev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are preparing a bill which would oblige the U.S. Administration to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by 1999. This was undertaken after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin explained in closed meetings that he does not oppose such legislation.

Senior Jewish sources in the United States report that Yitzhaq Rabin told AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] leaders he does not oppose such legislation as long as it does not endanger the continuation of the political process.

Several members of Congress even planned to insert a clause stating that united Jerusalem is solely Israel's capital, but decided to table the idea.

Our correspondent Hemi Shalev reports that sources in the prime minister's bureau yesterday confirmed that Rabin told AIPAC leaders he "will not intervene" in the legislative initiative.

U.S. Officials Pay Fact-Finding Visit to Golan

TA2701111795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Leading US embassy officials paid a fact-finding visit to the Golan Heights on Wednesday and met with representatives of the residents committee, THE JERUSALEM POST learned yesterday.

The day-long tour by the three-member delegation to Qatzrin was apparently aimed at assessing the atmosphere among residents and their determination to keep the region under Israeli rule.

"Their questions were mainly related to our campaign against any withdrawal and about development in the area," said Ramona Bar-Lev, wife of Qatzrin local council head Sammy Bar-Lev and herself a leading member of the Golan Residents Committee.

The officials were also interested in whether Golan residents would be prepared to accept some kind of compromise.

The committee representatives were adamant that their fight was to retain all of the Golan. Sammy Bar-Lev added that the Golan and not political personalities was their sole concern, when asked if they would feel more secure under the Likud.

Baraq Said To Deal With U.S. Golan Troop Deployment

TA2701113595 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by unnamed correspondent and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Text] Outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq will shortly depart to study in the United States. According to various sources, he will also be involved in a political mission on behalf of the prime minister.

Various political sources claim that apparently Baraq has been asked by Rabin to lobby for the deployment of U.S. soldiers on the Golan Heights within the framework of a peace agreement with Syria.

Our correspondent has learned that Prime Minister Rabin has recently been making efforts to leave an Israeli presence on the Golan even after peace is established with Syria, apparently for manning an Israeli early warning station on Mount Hermon. It is possible that Baraq will also be involved in these efforts.

Other sources say Baraq will travel to the United States in order to explain the Rabin government's peace process.

The opposition has already criticized Baraq's expected tour. Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau, chairman of the Likud bureau, yesterday denounced Baraq for aiding the government in the political sphere, as well as for his trip to the United States—which was organized by Labor—which is being conducted without any cooling off period.

Landau claims this coincides with the trend which strengthened during Baraq's tenure to involve the senior army echelon in politics and its affinity for the political process, thus giving the appearance they support the government. "The state comptroller should examine whether Baraq's visit in the United States meets the obligation of the cooling off period demanded of every retiring government worker."

Weizman: Peace Process Should Continue

TA2601160695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Weizman says that although he firmly believes the peace process should be pursued, he thinks the talks with the Palestinians should have been suspended at least for the traditional 30 days of mourning for the victims of the Bet Lid bombing.

The president made these remarks in a meeting with the Rupin College students.

Rabin Urged To Declare Moratorium on Talks With PLO

TA2601162095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Suspension Renamed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Formally, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has rejected President Ezer Weizman's suggestion to suspend the talks with the PLO and reassess the nation's course. But in effect he has followed at least some of Weizman's advice. By appointing a ministerial committee and giving it two months to study how to implement "full separation" between Israel and the Palestinians, he effectively suspended the implementation of the next step of the Oslo agreement.

At first glance, this may seem like a clever move. An official suspension of the talks might have angered the world community, and alienated Rabin's coalition partners as well as many in his own party. By ordering a study of separation, Rabin has avoided criticism while achieving the desired results.

The trouble with such gimmicks is that they are merely postponements of an inevitable day of reckoning. There is, of course, no way to realize the idea of total separation without resorting to the utterly unacceptable "transfer" of large numbers of both Jews and Arabs. A realistic study of the issue should reach this conclusion in far less than two months.

Nor is it possible to contemplate separation and simultaneously allow Arab workers from the territories to work in Israel. It must be one or the other. Yet permanent closure would have a devastating impact on the economic conditions in the self-rule areas, and Israel would come under precisely the kind of international censure the Labor government has been trying to avoid.

Worse, pretending to continue the process while actually halting it fails to achieve one of the most important possible benefits of an official suspension; a realization on Yasir 'Arafat's part that he has something to lose by allowing terrorism to continue. His contemptuous, laughing dismissal of reporters' questions Tuesday on whether he was going to condemn the Bet Lid massacre was clear evidence that he does not view terrorist incidents as threats to the "peace process" and the Israeli withdrawal that it dictates.

As long as 'Arafat is repeatedly assured by the government that the talks will continue no matter how often he violates the agreement and how murderous the acts of Gaza-based killers, there is little reason for him to do anything against the terrorists.

He cannot help reaching the conclusion that there is no price to pay for doing little more than detaining some Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders and releasing them within days or weeks. Only the threat of the suspension and ultimate collapse of the talks can convince him that there is more to lose by failing to combat terrorism than by declaring war on the two groups.

It may, then, be wiser for Rabin to call the reassessment he has ordered by its real name, and declare an official moratorium on the talks until the country enjoys, say, six months free of terrorism. Only then is there a chance that 'Arafat may take some real action against Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other advocates of the "armed struggle." The prospect of remaining no more than the mayor of Gaza and Jericho may do wonders to help him focus.

Beilin Calls PLO Official's Book 'Nonsense'

TA2701075195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Another PLO leader, Mamduh Nawfal, has published a book about the behind-the-scenes activities during the Oslo process, claiming that Shim'on Peres asked the PLO to sabotage the negotiations in Washington in order to force Rabin to approve the Oslo track.

According to the author, Prime Minister Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher planned to sabotage the Oslo talks. Nawfal confirms Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] allegations in his book that Israel's Labor Party and the PLO coordinated their positions on the eve of the Knesset elections.

In response, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said that Nawfal's book is a collection of nonsense aimed at embarrassing the PLO.

Behira Bardugo, the foreign minister's adviser, said that the book is a bad joke.

This was reported by our correspondent Qaysar Kabaha.

Agreements Between Jordan, PA Welcomed

TA2601181495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening, Israel welcomed the agreements signed between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said that Israel views these agreements as a positive step.

IDF Raids Islamic College; Activists Arrested

TA2701071195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raided the Islamic College in Abu-Dis, east of Jerusalem. It arrested Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists and seized inciting pamphlets. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the soldiers had to use force against rioting students during the raid and that the college was damaged. The IDF clamped a curfew on the area. Over 100 activists from the two organizations have been arrested since the beginning of this week.

More on Raid; Attorney's House Searched

TA2701123395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Residents of Abu-Dis in East Jerusalem say that nearly 20 students suspected of belonging to Islamic organizations were arrested in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raid on the Islamic College last night. Among them was Dr. Ziyad Abu-Hilal, the college's dean of students. Four female students were lightly injured in a scuffle with the soldiers, and they were taken to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem for treatment. The IDF clamped a curfew on entrance to the college.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that at dawn today the security forces searched the house of attorney Hasan Rabi'a near Ramallah and confiscated documents. Attorney Rabi'a is the director of a press office in East Jerusalem. Security sources suspect him of being involved in activities for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

At noon today, two ax-wielding Arab youngsters were arrested in downtown Hebron on suspicion of planning to attack soldiers. IDF soldiers noticed the two and took them in for questioning following a short confrontation.

Police Ministry Works Out Plan for 'Separation'

TA2601154595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jan 95 p A4

[Report by Re'uven Shapira and Judy Maltz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Police Ministry's plan for a separation between Israel and the territories calls for beefing up police troops, especially the Border Police, along the dividing line (the line separating Israel and the territories to be determined by the government, which the prime minister says will not follow the 1967 boundaries). Police and Border Police units deployed along this 300-km-long line will be able to ensure "a reasonable level of security," Police Ministry officials say, and will prevent Palestinians without permits from entering Israel.

The Police Ministry's plan calls for the addition of some 20 companies (or 2,000 soldiers) to the Border Police and of hundreds of policemen to the Israel Police. These forces would deploy along the future separation line and guard it. The troops would be mobile and would be able to reach any point along the line within minutes, using helicopters, and perhaps even horses and dogs. They would use electronic means and advanced night- and day-vision surveillance equipment to enable full control of the area. A fence would be built only in areas where it is necessary, and along the line there would be patrol roads as well as dirt ramps to block the passage of vehicles.

The ministry estimates that the police will need an additional budget of 100 to 200 million shekels to implement these ideas and that if and when it is decided to implement them, at least eight months will be necessary to execute the framework plan.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat instructed David Brodet, his ministry's director general, to compile a document detailing the repercussions of an economic separation between Israel and the territories. Shohat said yesterday that "prior to the negotiations with the Palestinians we prepared documents on a variety of options. I asked Brodet to update the material and check whether it requires additional work."

According to Shohat, Brodet will submit the document within a few days. It should be pointed out that on the eve of the economic negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in Paris a year ago Treasury officials concluded that a system of open borders should be favored and that both sides would suffer from an economic separation.

The finance minister said that a separation between Israel and the Palestinians could lead to the annulment of the economic agreements signed in Paris. "I assume we will not take any unilateral action, but we will have to consider it," he said.

Hefetz: Palestinian Police Refuse Extradition Orders

TA2601161295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz contends that in several particularly grave cases, Palestinians who murdered Israelis for nationalistic reasons, remain free in the autonomy, because the Palestinian Police refuse to extradite them.

Israel asked for the extradition of the terrorist who murdered Uri Megidish; the murderers of Gil Revah and Shlomo Kapah, two elevator technicians killed in Ramla; and the killers of Ashdod resident Natasha Ivanova. In Judaea and Samaria, the Israel Police established a special unit to discuss extradition matters with the Palestinian Authority.

Although Jibril al-Rujub's aides are still driving a car stolen from the Israel Police, and although the Gaza authorities are in no rush to return stolen goods to Israel, the Jericho police did return several dozens stolen cars to Israel. Special police unit head 'Ami Fleissig says cooperation does work where minor infractions are concerned. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian Authority helped the Israel Police identify the the remains of the Bet Lid suicide bombers. The Israel Police hope this cooperation and the intention to for the first time extradite a prisoner held in Israel to Jericho may, perhaps, hasten the extradition of terrorists enjoying freedom in the autonomous territory.

Vagueness on Nuclear Issue Said Part of Security Concept

TA2701111395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vagueness on the nuclear issue is part of Israel's security concept. There is no reason why we should rush to dispel it, particularly when neighboring countries, such as Iran and Iraq, publicly call for Israel's annihilation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres stated yesterday in an address to the Swiss International Relations Institute in Geneva.

Peres said that Iran treats Israel as "a collective Salman Rushdie" that must be annihilated by any possible means. Nevertheless, Israel does not ignore moderate voices in extreme countries in the Arab world and will make every possible effort to reach out to anybody calling for a dialogue.

Replying to a professor who accused Israel of violating human rights in the territories, Peres said: "You live in tranquil Switzerland and pass judgment on our actions without having felt what it is like to live for years under the threat of terror. We have no inferiority complex where our morality is concerned." Peres stressed that in spite of Arab terror Israel has never imposed the death penalty, other than on the Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows 50% Support Halt to Peace Talks

TA2401123495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jan 95 p 1

[MA'ARIV poll conducted by the Mutagim Institute for Market and Public Opinion Research]

[FBIS Translated Text] Should the peace process with the Palestinians be stopped in view of the attack at the Bet Lid junction?

—it should be stopped: 50
—it should be continued: 37
—refused to respond: 3
—did not know: 10

The poll was conducted on 23 January among 516 people constituting a representative national sample of the adult Jewish education. The margin of error is 4.5 percent.

'Arafat Stresses Jordanian-Palestinian 'Twinning'

JN2701115595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman for Cairo this morning at the end of an official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and signed a general agreement and seven executive agreements that arrange relations between Jordan and the PNA in various fields. [passage omitted]

In an interview with Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, our correspondent for political affairs, PNA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Palestine is looking with great hope to His Majesty King Husayn, and that the agreements signed in Amman pave the way for fraternal relations and true twinning between the two brotherly peoples.

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I want to begin with deep thanks to his majesty the king for this good effort and these fraternal initiatives that enabled us to conclude these agreements, not only between the two brothers—as I told his majesty the king—but between the Jordanian and Palestinians twins. Their relations are strong, fraternal, and solid ones based on all blessed facts that gather us on goodness at present and in the future, God willing, in order to push together this Arab nation toward its solidarity and cohesion, and give an example for this solidarity and joint Arab action, God willing, as his majesty the king clearly said concerning this subject.

In fact, what happened was no more than entrenchment of these relations that link us, and which we always view as relations among brothers and twins. God willing, what happened will be a blessing for all of us, and we in Palestine look with great hope to his majesty the king so that we will be able to push forward these agreements, and that through them we will be able to crystallize several meanings that strongly advance the Arab and Islamic march forward and in a fraternal and twinning spirit, as said. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Concludes Two-Day Visit

JN2701081895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian National Authority [PNA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this morning at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks His Majesty King Husayn.

'Arafat was seen off by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister; two deputies to the prime minister; a number of ministers; and PNA members.

In statements before leaving Amman Airport, 'Arafat said Palestine is looking with great hope to His Majesty King Husayn, and the agreements that were signed in Amman pave the way for fraternal relations and true twining between the two brotherly peoples.

Official Outlines Accords Signed With Palestinians

JN2601143895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Statement by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister, minister of education, and head of the delegation to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, following the signing of a number of Jordanian-Palestinian agreements in Amman on 26 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the crown prince, a general agreement on cooperation and coordination between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority was signed today. His Excellency President 'Arafat and His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir signed the agreement.

This agreement defines the overall framework of cooperation and coordination in all fields of common interest and on stands in all international and regional organizations and forums. This is aimed at formulating a united stand and policy toward the future of this nation, especially in light of the circumstances and developments.

I believe that this agreement opens new horizons to offer to our nation a model for cooperation that fully restores cohesion to the Arab ranks.

Seven executive agreements stem from this agreement and we have left room for the possibility of adding new issues in new fields whenever we feel there is a need to discuss such issues.

As I said, there are seven agreements. They deal with the fields of education, culture and information, monetary issues and banking, trade issues, post and communications, transportation, and administrative affairs.

In the education field, the basic framework was to apply Jordanian curriculums in the West Bank until Palestinian curriculums are established and to fully implement these curriculums without any changes, but with the PNA's right to add paragraphs or chapters to these curriculums that clarify the Palestinian identity.

Moreover, the Jordanian Ministries of Education and Higher Education will put all their administrative, educational, and technical expertise at the disposal of the PNA so that it can establish its own specialized institutions.

In addition, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will recognize the Palestinian high school certificate and will consider it equivalent to the Jordanian Tawjihi [General Certificate of Education]. Jordan will also recognize the Comprehensive Diploma of Education that is issued by community colleges.

In addition to exchanging expertise, the two sides will try to exchange experts and technicians in various fields.

In the field of culture and information, the focus was on the Arab-Islamic culture, on the continuation of the Jordanian role in supporting our Palestinian brothers, and on trying to benefit from each other's experience on various information issues.

In the field of trade issues, there was a serious attempt to head toward a joint market for the two countries. In order to achieve this objective, certain committees will specify a group of goods to be exchanged between the two countries that are exempted from customs duties and other taxes. Other goods will be subject to customs duties and taxes according to each country's laws.

However, these committees will seek to expand the range of goods exempted of customs duties until the complete liberalization of trade between the two countries is achieved.

In the banking field, the two sides agreed to keep the Jordanian dinar as a circulating and settlement currency. The Palestinian Authority will try to use the Jordanian dinar as a means of payment in most of its activities. The branches and offices of Jordanian Banks will continue operating in the West Bank. New offices for these banks will be licensed. There will also be coordination between the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestinian monetary authority to monitor these branches and banks.

In the field of administrative affairs, the two sides agreed to ease formalities at the bridges and to help our brothers in their travels to Jordan and to neighboring Arab countries.

The same thing applies to exchanging expertise and full cooperation in the fields of post, telecommunications, transportation, and the construction of roads, bridges, and crossing points.

Radio Reports on Amman Meetings, Accords

JN2601172595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jan 94

[Report by Fathi al-Barqawi in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Jordanian talks, cochaired by President Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn, ended in Amman at noon today. At the end of these talks, the Palestinian side expressed its deep satisfaction over the results of the talks. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, official spokesman of the Palestinian] National Authority, said at a news conference held at 1600 [1400 GMT] today that the agreement constitutes a positive step toward entrenching Palestinian-Jordanian relations, describing these relations as historic and distinguished. Abu-Rudaynah noted that the seven agreements reached by the two sides will be implemented once they are signed by the National Authority and the Jordanian Government.

Answering a question from the Voice of Palestine, the National Authority spokesman said that the implementation of the agreements needs real and full coordination between the two sides. He noted that both sides focused during the talks on the special relationship between the Palestinian and Jordanian people, as well as the role they will play in terms of reinforcing the spirit of Arab solidarity.

Abu-Rudaynah asserted that President 'Arafat exerts continuous efforts to reconcile the Arabs, adding that he is working in this direction through reserved contacts.

Asked if President 'Arafat has addressed an invitation to Jordan's King Husayn to visit Palestine, Abu-Rudaynah said: Jordan is a dear and fraternal Arab country. As Jordan is our country, Palestine is also the homeland of all Jordanians.

Abu-Rudaynah said: Proceeding from the firm historic relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples to reach common objectives and interests; to underscore the desire of both Jordan and Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields; in light of the strong ties between the two fraternal peoples, which stem from firm constants and conditions that will contribute to laying down a solid foundation in order to promote these relations to advanced stages of coordination and integration in the service of both people within the framework of their one future; and to express the common aspirations and sublime objectives that both sides are trying to achieve, the two sides agreed to shape a unified strategy. This strategy shall be based on real and continuous coordination between them to achieve their common objectives in the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Palestinian Official on Accords

JN2601173995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1555 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', official in charge of economy and trade in the Palestinian Authority, in Amman, by Rajih Qaddur in the studio, on 26 January, from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qaddur] Good evening to the official in charge of economy and trade in the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala'.

[Quray'] Good evening to you.

[Qaddur] Mr. Abu-'Ala', it seems that the agreements signed today in Amman between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority will put you on the right track.

[Quray'] No doubt, after a very long period of talks and consultations, we signed today very important agreements on all levels. There is a political agreement and a general framework for common Palestinian-Jordanian action. The agreement was signed by President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the Jordanian prime minister, in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and the ministers.

Also, there is a monetary and banking agreement, a trade agreement, a cultural and information agreement, and an agreement in the field of transportation and communication and administrative affairs. I think that these agreements constitute a framework and foundation for building sound Jordanian-Palestinian relations that will last and that satisfy the ambitions of the Jordanian and Palestinian people.

[Qaddur] Mr. Abu-'Ala', are there any outstanding issue that will be resolved in the future?

[Quray'] The issues we have finalized, I think, constitute a solid foundation for all fields. However, there will be committees of experts and technicians to discuss the details. In addition, ministerial committees will meet in the future. I think therefore that we have established a sound foundation for this relationship.

[Qaddur] The reports carried recently by the news media did not refer to a settlement to the recent differences over the issue of custodianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem. Have the talks addressed this issue or has it been postponed?

[Quray'] I think that this issue can be considered over now. There is a paragraph in the agreement that Jordan supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establishing their Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital. Therefore, this issue is no longer a subject of discussion or dispute. As for the awqaf, Jordan has clearly said that it has severed its links with the awqaf and Islamic courts in the West Bank, except for Jerusalem until custodianship is transferred to the Palestinian Authority. When Jordan even declared the severing of ties regarding the awqaf, it said this would be exclusively transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

[Qaddur] Is there a timetable to implement these agreements?

[Quray'] No doubt, every committee has now to work in both an integral and independent manner to implement the agreements. In the field of trade, for example, the experts committee will start next week specifying lists of commodities that will be exported from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jordan or through Jordan, in transit, to other Arab countries, or from Jordan to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, or through them, to other places. The first article refers to free trade of commodities that are totally exempt, excluding the sales tax approved by Jordan and the value added tax levied by the Palestinian Authority. In addition, the ban on some commodities was lifted. These commodities were banned because they are produced by factories that were established after 1967. This is now completely over. Other lists will be renewed every six months, so that eventually we will have free trade between the two countries. The same thing applies to all other fields.

[Qaddur] In addition, a Jordanian representation office will be opened in the Gaza Strip shortly.

[Quray'] No doubt, this is a step in the right direction to establish a sound relationship. His majesty has said that Jordan will open a representation office in Gaza. Foreign Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that he himself will choose a representative to this office and that he will open it.

[Qaddur] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', official in charge of economy and trade in the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

Official on Accords, Ties, Holy Sites

NC2701082895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, minister of communications in the Palestinian Authority, in Amman, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Miliji] What are the results of the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings held in the Jordanian capital, Amman?

[Al-Ashhab] Delegations from the Palestinian Authority and Jordan held talks on bilateral issues over the past three days. Agreements were reached on these issues and put in the form of a general agreement signed by President 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. The agreements cover trade, economy, transport, banking, communications, post, education, and other administrative issues. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] We understand from your statement that the tension that recently marred Palestinian-Jordanian relations has disappeared and friendly relations have been restored to what they were?

[Al-Ashhab] You could say that, because the atmosphere of the negotiations was positive and we reached agreements in a relatively short time. President 'Arafat's meeting with King Husayn was very friendly, hence there were no obstacles. You can say that most of the tension in Palestinian-Jordanian relations has disappeared. In time, I believe, relations will be as normal as such relations have always been between two fraternal states.

[Al-Miliji] The Palestinian side is now experiencing a ferocious Israeli settlement campaign impeding the peace process. Did you discuss this issue with Jordan's King Husayn?

[Al-Ashhab] Yes we did. King Husayn pledged to do his utmost with the Israeli Government and at international forums with which he has numerous ties to raise this issue so that Israel will halt this ferocious settlement campaign. This campaign blocks progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks and in the implementation of Palestinian-Israeli agreements to achieve the Palestinian people's rights to determine their future, establish their own state, and repatriate the evacuees and refugees to their homeland. [passage omitted]

[Al-Miliji] The Idea of confederation between the Palestinians and Jordanians was raised once and you participated in the peace talks as one delegation, the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Should we consider the general agreement you concluded recently as a prelude to expanded ties in a quasiconfederation?

[Al-Ashhab] This is true. But king Husayn said frankly that when the Palestinian Authority extends its powers to the rest of the occupied territories and the Palestinian people gain their full rights to [words indistinct) the occupation, self-determination, and establishing an independent state, confederation will be decided in a public referendum by the two nations. According to the outcome of such a referendum, confederation will be effected or things will stay the same. This will be up to the two nations after the Palestinian people have regained all their rights.

[Al-Miliji] So the confederation issue was discussed openly between you and King Husayn?

[Al-Ashhab] It appeared in the margin of the talks but was not a topic on the agenda.

[Al-Miliji] The final point in our interview concerns religious jurisdiction over Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, especially with the ferocious onslaught against the occupied Arab territories, that is, the settlement building by Jewish settlers. Did you discuss this with King Husayn?

[Al-Ashhab] Yes. King Husayn explicitly stated that he has no ambition or interest in Jerusalem, neither in the land nor in the holy sites, and that the term jurisdiction does not exist in the Jordanian dictionary. There is only sponsorship, not jurisdiction. He publicly announced that Jerusalem is an occupied Palestinian land covered by Security Council Resolution 242, stipulatRng the inadmissibility of occupying others' land by force. When Jerusalem's status is discussed in the final stage of negotiations in 1996 and Jerusalem returns to the Palestinians, then this sponsorship will be taken over by the Palestinian leadership and people.

[Al-Miliji] Will the Jordanian role continue until that time?

[Al-Ashhab] Jordan will continue its role as a sponsor, not custodian, of the holy sites.

'Arafat-Husayn Meeting Termed 'Great Political Event'

JN2501090395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "An Opportune Atmosphere for the Jordanian-Palestinian Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Various Jordanian and Palestinian political and economic circles are looking forward to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan with profound interest. A number of bilateral agreements organizing the future relationship between both fraternal peoples are expected to be signed.

The importance of the Palestinian president's visit to Amman and of his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn stems not only from the bilateral agreements which will be signed during the visit and not only from its extremely important timing, but also from what is pinned on this visit in terms of clearing the Jordanian-Palestinian relations and removing any flaw that might have tarnished them.

Observers recall that this will be the first visit to Jordan by the Palestinian president after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority, which will make this visit more important and significant than all the visits which President 'Arafat paid to Amman in the past long years.

Perhaps, the positive atmosphere under which the Jordanian- Palestinian ministerial meetings were held, in preparation for the Husayn-'Arafat summit, calls for further confidence in the present and future distinguished relations between both fraternal peoples. These peoples are united by hope, pain, history, geography, emotions, and interests in a way unmatched between any other two peoples.

From this premise, we view with satisfaction the atmosphere preceding President 'Arafat's visit. We also view the anticipated Jordanian-Palestinian summit as a great political event which will widely open the way for restoring cohesion between the two twin peoples and resuming their common path. The Israeli occupation itself has been unable to stop or obstruct this path.

Official Says No Palestinian Passports for Citizens

JN2501125995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan said Tuesday it would not allow Jordanians to carry Palestinian passports unless the Arab League removes a ban on dual Arab nationality.

A Jordanian official involved in the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations said the subject was not on the agenda of the talks but that the issue was brought up informally by ministers of the Palestinian National Authority on the sidelines of the negotiations.

"The Jordanian position is to abide to the resolutions of the Arab League which do not permit dual Arab nationalities," said the official. "But if there is any other proposal, it should be submitted through the Arab League."

The official said that even if Jordan recognised and accepted the Palestinian passport it would "be meaningless" unless it was accepted by Arab interior ministers and the international community.

Palestinian officials have said PNA President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to raise the issue of dual citizenship with King Husayn during their talks.

Palestinians claim that donor countries, including the United Stats, would accept the Palestinian passport as a "travel document and not as a nationality." But Palestinians argue that a passport still remains a "crucial symbol of nationhood."

The majority of Arab states have held back support for allowing dual Arab citizenship.

According to PNA officials, Mr. 'Arafat "will try to find a way to allow Palestinians to keep their Jordanian passports and at the same time convince Jordan to recognise the Palestinian passport."

"If Jordan accepts the concept of a Palestinian passport, in addition to the Jordanian one, it will show practical support for the Palestinians," said one Palestinian official.

But a Jordanian official has said that Amman had three prerequisites that must be met before it would discuss the future relationship between Jordan and Palestinians as well as deciding who is a Palestinian and who is a Jordanian.

The source said that a full Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian self- determination and most importantly a solution to the refugee problem would have to be achieved before he issues of future relations and passports could be settled.

More than a million Palestinians in the West Bank hold two-year Jordanian passports granting Jordanian citizenship.

The Kingdom has also granted Jordanian passports that act as travel documents to over 100,000 Gazans.

King Husayn Phones Egyptian President

JN2601204795 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 26 Jan 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] His majesty the king briefed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak over the telephone tonight on cooperation agreement signed by Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority.

His majesty and the Egyptian leader also discussed ways to achieve Arab reconciliation, heal inter-Arab rifts, and unify Arab ranks to counter challenges at the current state and attain just and comprehensive peace. They said such peace should restore Arab rights and enable the Arabs to go along a course of development and building a secure and right future for the future generations.

Al-Kabariti, Egypt's 'Amr Musa Discuss Tripartite Meeting

JN2601153995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a telephone conversation today. They exchanged views on the possibility of holding a tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine in Cairo on 4 February to discuss and coordinate joint efforts regarding the displaced and refugee issues.

Prime Minister Presents Policy Statement

JN2501172595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1227 GMT 25 Jan 95

[Government's policy statement read by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir at the House of Representatives in Amman on 25 January—recording]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. May God's prayers and peace be upon the Arab prophet, his household, and companions. Our Lord, decide thou between us and our people in truth, for thou art the best to decide. [Koranic verses]

Your excellency the speaker, esteemed members of the House of Representatives, may God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

We thank God the almighty for gathering us in this joint session of the legislative and executive authorities, at a time when our country is entering a new era, which His Majesty King Husayn wanted to be an era of change in which we continue building a state of law and institutions, enhancing democratic practices, and realizing social justice and absolute equality among all citizens. It will be an era of moving the comprehensive reform to a stage of reconstruction through a clear vision and sound methodology and of responding to challenges imposed by confrontations out of which Jordan emerged with dignity and pride; namely, the economic challenges, Jordan's steadfastness in the face of the siege, and its stubborn determination to restore full sovereignty over its land, thus regaining its rightful share of water and carrying out its duty toward its nation in accordance with the principles of the great Arab Revolt. Jordan continued its achievements in various fields despite the huge challenges, and the Jordanians remained patient and courageous in facing the difficulties with full confidence in the inevitability of overcoming these crises; abiding by their constitution, charter and law; dignified in their patience and pride; forgiving in their chivalry and sacrifices.

In submitting to your distinguished parliament the government's statement for your vote of confidence, we reaffirm our commitment to spare no effort in extending our full cooperation to the legislative authority in order to enhance the bases of parliamentary life in all its aspects and in a manner that guarantees full commitment to the principle of the separation of powers in the context of cooperation and balance among them in accordance with the Constitution.

Constructive dialogue and a sense of national responsibility will constitute our focal point for cooperation with the deputies and representatives of our nation.

From this august building and in accordance with the spirit of his majesty's letter of designation, we emphasize our commitment to the state of law and institutions and declare before your house our adherence to the Constitution in letter and in spirit, to the national charter as an intellectual frame of reference and an operational guideline, and to the supremacy of the law as a basis for justice and equality among the people. We also affirm our commitment to democracy based on political pluralism, respect for freedom of thought, and public and private freedoms, stressing that democracy for us is an irreversible way of life and that there will be no turning back from our path to enhance it and build its institutions as a means of realizing our national and pan-Arab objectives and as a way of liberating creative potential to achieve progress in all aspects of life.

My government will continue pursuing the factors for constructing a qualified and capable model that can respond to the needs of our people and our nation.

In this context, the government will submit to your distinguished house during the current session a draft law for establishing a center for the study of freedom, democracy, and human rights, to be an intellectual beacon as His Majesty King Husayn wanted it to be, a tool of advancement and monitoring of democratic performance, and a model and paragon for the Democratic life shouldered by all Jordanians in all constitutional political parties and in all trade unions.

The government will also reconsider the election law relating to the lower house of parliament, the law on public gatherings, and the crime prevention law with the aim of modernizing them to cope with democracy and as an enhancement to the state of law and institutions.

My government will continue its efforts to establish channels for communication and dialogue with political parties in order to discuss public affairs that are of concern to the citizens and the country as part of its endeavors to enhance political pluralism and promote the democratization process.

There will also be continuous dialogue and contacts with trade and labor unions, chambers of industry and commerce, the Farmers Union, and other economic and private institutions. This will be the firm policy of the government, through which it will probe the concerns and aspirations of these vast sectors of the community with an eye to promoting the national interest.

The government will exert every possible effort to improve the status of the judiciary. It would also like to affirm its full commitment to guaranteeing its independence, safeguarding its sanctity, and enhancing its tools and potentials so that it may shoulder its responsibilities toward the promotion of democratic practices in the context of the state of law.

The government will accord due attention to the judiciary. It will seek to activate and amend the legislation concerning filing suits. Likewise, it will provide the necessary resources for opening the needed courts throughout the capital, and in all other parts of the kingdom, in order to enable citizens to have access to the judiciary easily and effortlessly. The government will also establish notary public offices and execution departments in order to make the acquisition of auxiliary judicial services accessible to the public.

The government believes that the creation of an appropriate climate for judges in the context of new posts that are appropriately equipped is conducive to the creation of a climate leading to the achievement of utmost justice. This would enable claimants to regain their rights in due time.

The government will start to employ modern techniques and develop administrative work in courts and judicial departments. It will closely pursue the construction of the Palace of Justice so it may serve as a beacon of fairness and a monument for justice. In addition, the government will provide judges all means to facilitate their acquisition of knowledge through scholarships, training courses, newsletters, periodicals, and the specialized central library, which the Ministry of Justice is planning to launch. The government will also work to build clubs for judges in which members of the judiciary may meet and stay in touch with one another in a scientific, social, and cultural context.

Your Excellency Mr. Speaker;

Distinguished Deputies;

The responsibility of safeguarding the homeland and citizens puts us all before the duty of raising the efficiency of our valiant Armed Forces by implementing their reorganization plans, providing them with all their needs, and reequipping them. We are well aware that their performance of their national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian duties is something in which all Jordanians have always taken pride.

The Jordanians have shouldered the responsibilities entailed honorably and courageously since the days when our grandfathers led the great Arab Revolt army to defend the nation's freedom, independence, and unity.

We are certain that the role being played by our Armed Forces at this stage, at a time when the region and the world at large are plagued with a great deal of concern and turmoil, makes it imperative that we support them so that they may maintain the highest standards of vigilance and competence and remain capable of performing their duties to the fullest.

As for the security establishments, which are working to promote the security of citizens and the country and comprise the Public Security Department, the General Intelligence Department, and the Civil Defense Department, they will enjoy similar support. The government will provide them with all the requirements needed for modernization and training so they may promote their efficiency and remain capable of achieving stability and spreading security among citizens. Thus, they will make forceful contributions toward protecting the citizens' right to live in a community where freedom, equality, and the rule of law rein supreme.

The government will redouble its efforts to safeguard public safety and be strict in the measures it adopts to protect the people's lives and property. It will take steps toward that end. It will amend the traffic laws and enforce a host of measures designed to protect people on the roads.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies, the role undertaken by the institutions entrusted with education, culture, information, youth welfare, and awqaf in developing the personality of the citizen and strengthening his presence and in shaping the process of change towards finalizing the establishment of the state of institutions and promoting the democratic path requires that these institutions be based on national commitment, enlightened by the pan-Arab dimension and inspired by Islamic values with a clear, open outlook toward mankind.

Within this context, the government will spare no effort in defending the Arab Islamic culture and enhancing its presence. The government will support intellectual activities aimed at creating objective harmony between the honorable past of which we are proud and the future to which we are looking with confidence and optimism so that the intellectual activities will be able to cope with the tempo of this era and respond to its requirements and challenges. Thus, we are now examining the best means to achieve cooperation and coordination between these national institutions with an effective mechanism and framework.

Therefore, in the field of education, the government will concentrate on accelerating the implementation of the projects of the second phase of the educational development plan, which extends up to the year 2000 and which will give priority to the infrastructural development of the educational system with special emphasis on the qualitative aspects of the educational process in a way that provides our students with a balanced education, taking into account their mental, physical, spiritual, social, and vocational needs.

The government will devote special care to school curricula and textbooks, continuing to develop the school textbooks through feedback from the field, spreading educational techniques and other educational utilities, taking care of the general and school examinations, developing their aims, content, and methods, and expanding the basis for vocational education by diversifying its programs and increasing its links with development plans. The building of schools will continue in a such a way as to completely do away with rented buildings and the use of one school for two shifts.

The government will work to strengthen decentralization in educational administration. The school will become the primary educational unit and will be provided with the necessary support to develop its duties and its administrative and financial powers.

Recognizing the pivotal role of teachers, the government will work to support them in order to improve the conditions of their work and raise the standard of their professional level by concentrating on programs to improve and train them during their service. The government will also work to expand the teachers housing schemes and establish a teachers association in every governorate.

As for higher education, the government is developing a clear policy based on supporting the independence of universities and on striking a balance between higher education output and the labor market requirements through reconsidering the admission policy, upgrading performance, modernizing scientific research programmers, creating a new system for accrediting higher education institutions for graduate assessment, and laying down the necessary bases to tackle the problem of funding the universities that receive financial support from the general budget.

In the field of culture, my government will work to deepen the content and aims of our contemporary national and pan-Arab approach and the means of fulfilling its objectives. At the same time, it will highlight the complementary and inseparable relationship between the two components of culture—Arabism and Islam. In this respect, the government will make use of available potential to support societies of culture and arts and similar unions and forums to serve their members and strengthen their roles in deepening the sense of national and pan-Arab belonging.

This potential will also be used to set up cultural departments in the new governorate centers, open branches of the national library in the kingdom's cities, and bolster cooperation and contact between our cultural institutions and their counterparts in the Arab world with a view to strengthening the citizen's confidence in his nation and future.

My government is eager to do its best to implement the letter of designation's directives regarding culture, including guaranteeing freedom of creativity, backing creative people in art, thought, and literary areas through offering them job opportunities and atmospheres of creativity, and assisting them to attain all the means of human culture.

If the role of educational and cultural institutions is to create comprehensive awareness, and the role of universities is to be centers of research and enlightenment and an image of academic freedom in research and thinking, then the role of information is to make the state's information representative of the entire homeland.

In this new climate, which fosters change, the evaluation of the performance of the official media organizations as well as their modernization will be deemed a priority issue by this government. The media will be relevant to all public issues. They will aim to promote the people's democratic practices and foster dialogue among them. Moreover, they will provide a climate for constructive criticism and communication between the people and officials. Likewise, the media will support all national endeavors to open the citizens' eyes to what is taking place around the globe in terms of the catalysts of progress and change. In the course of efforts to achieve this objective, the official media will seek to safeguard their credibility and demonstrate fairness. We are proud that the Jordanian electronic news media is communicating the homeland's image and pan-Arab stands to the world through the Jordanian Arab satellite channel and the radio. My government will seek to make satellite transmissions reach all parts of the globe shortly.

With regard to the press, I would like to say that the government is keen on protecting press freedoms, which are guaranteed by the Constitution and enshrined in the National Charter. The government, in coordination with the Journalists Association, and in cooperation with an elite group of wise and experienced men, will review the legislations governing the journalistic profession. The government hopes that your esteemed house debate on the Journalists Association Provisional Law, submitted to you, will promote the association's role in streamlining the profession and guaranteeing the freedom of the press in the context of a national and ethical responsibility, honesty, integrity, civilized discourse, and tolerance in order to promote the democratic course, which is grounded in the Constitution.

In the field of youth, the government is interested in utilizing their vigorous potential and realizing their aspirations. It seeks to meet their needs and make available all the resources required so they may be raised on firm bases and principles. The upbringing of the youth must seek inspiration from faith in God and a sense of belonging to the nation and the homeland. My government will also seek to nurture a high sense of responsibility within the youths' hearts and minds so that they may become strong in their faith, code of ethics, and personality; aware of their nation's heritage and role on the international scene; and proud of their history and wise Hashemite leadership.

Toward that end, the government will seek to complete the infrastructure of the youth and sports services, and build youth hostels and sports complexes. Moreover, it will seek to launch several centers that cater to this sector throughout the kingdom.

The government will also continue to extend financial support for sports unions and clubs to enable them to play their role in promoting the sports movement, sponsor local and international matches, and enhance sports so that they may measure up to the level that befits this homeland.

The government will seek to enhance the role played by the Center for Preparing Sports and Youth Leaders so that it may become a regional Olympic center capable of receiving the sons of the greater Arab homeland and training them.

Likewise, the government will seek to resume the issuance of the series YOUTH EDUCATION, and redouble efforts to open channels for communication with our youth here and abroad in order to keep the relationship with them very much alive and ceaseless.

The government will also accord special attention to voluntary action, activate the roles youth centers can play in this regard, enhance the roles of boy scouts and girl guides, and launch al- Husayn camps for work and construction in various parts of the kingdom and in specific seasons. To realize these aspirations, the endorsement of the Youth Care Bill will enable the government to ensure fixed revenues to support the aforementioned activities through the establishment of a fund to bolster the sports and youth movement.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies;

My government will encourage the dissemination of Islamic education, and seek inspiration from the rulings of the tolerant Islamic law, which is the major source of legislation. It will also strive to promote the efforts of mosques through supporting the Islamic Preaching, Education, and Guidance Department and supplying it with expertise, improving the imams' qualifications, rehabilitating sermons and religious education, and intensifying religious lessons in order to promote the values of goodness, virtue, and tolerance in the peoples' hearts and minds. It will also seek to activate the role of Islamic education centers and the Holy Koran houses and cater to religious education through enhancing the performance of religious colleges, institutes, and schools.

The government will forge ahead in its efforts to realize the king's wishes of rehabilitating the mausoleums and tombs of the noble companions of the Prophet on the chaste Jordanian soil. Moreover, it will continue its efforts to support the Committee for the Rehabilitation of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock in order to maintain and rehabilitate the immortal Islamic sites in holy Jerusalem and rebuild the pulpit of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque so that it may be a replica of Salah-al-Din's pulpit.

The government will demonstrate an eagerness to support Islamic waqf in order to augment its resources and allow it to exploit its property so that it may perform its role in the community and contribute toward the achievement of development and the eradication of poverty. Maximum use will be made of the Zakat Fund to achieve this goal. The government will continue to perform its duty of catering to pilgrims and extending the best possible services to them.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies, in the field of administrative reform and development, the government is determined to utilize human resources, upgrade their efficiency, develop their positive attitudes toward civil service, encourage education and training at all civil service levels, and develop the civil service system and the legislation that governs the civil service in a manner that will place further emphasis on the supremacy of law, integrity, and objectivity in the procedures concerning appointments and promotions.

The government will further work on developing the general organizational structure of the state's institutions to define links and relations among its various agencies, and simplify administrative procedures in departments that have direct contact with the citizens. The government will also work on developing the administrative data systems and introduce data management technology to strengthen the efficiency of various departments.

The government will also work on studying the moves begun in Jordan toward decentralization to arrive at the ideal model to ease routine measures and make it easier for citizens to complete their work at government departments and ensure the most efficient use of resources. The government will also review the administrative division system as part of the development to serve the homeland and the citizen.

My government is absolutely determined to guarantee justice and fairness in all its procedures. It will take the necessary strict measures to guarantee that employees are fulfilling their duties with absolute fairness and justice without any bias toward any party and away from any abuse of office, breach of trust, or financial or administrative corruption. The government will support the Audit Bureau and the Supervision and Inspection Bureau to enable them to fulfill their duty to protect the public funds and oversee that the administration is performing at its best.

In order to make it easier for the citizen to obtain administrative and social services, my government will work on fixing the National [Civil Status] Number and make it obligatory. The National Numbers of almost 90 percent of citizens registered at the Civil Status Department have already been fixed.

Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Deputies, in the economic field, the government's efforts will be directed toward improving the comprehensive development process by achieving economic growth that can survive and stimulate the economic sectors that have recently seen some deceleration. The government will give particular attention to providing a suitable investment environment to attract local and foreign investments, since investments are the cornerstone for achieving healthy and continued growth

The government will take the necessary measures to stimulate national savings, expand the production base, increase the competitiveness of local exports, ensure the ideal utilization of the available resources, activate the role of the private sector in moving the wheels of the national economy, and spread the gains of development in a way that achieves the desired social justice in the various parts of the country. Therefore, the government is determined to adopt a suitable economic framework that can guarantee the building of sound economic bases, represented in achieving continued growth, preserving financial and monetary stability, and overcoming flaws and imperfections. Therefore, the national program for economic adjustment will continue with all power and determination because it represents a sound pillar for continued growth, maintaining the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate, building the country's foreign currency reserve, and achieving a relative stability in the general index of prices.

The government will work on developing economic legislation, particularly the laws on encouraging investment, as well as those on companies, the Free Zones Institution, the Amman Financial Market, customs, and agents and middlemen, in order to increase investment incentives, clarify legal texts, facilitate procedures, reduce routine and bureaucracy, remove all obstacles facing investment, and ease the burden laid on investors, facilitate their work, and inform them of the available opportunities for investment and encourage foreign investment within the framework of the national priorities that achieves the national interest. The government will continue to develop the infrastructure for the national economy and provide the basic auxiliary services, especially water, electricity, communications, and roads.

The government will also seek to draft a new Income Tax Bill, the provisions of which will catch up with modern developments, take into account the need to achieve greater taxation fairness, promote investment, protect collected tax revenues, and ensure clarity in the articles and provisions in order to limit, as much possible, the room for interpretation when the law is applied.

The government would like to confirm that this bill will not levy new taxes on capital profits, including the profits resulting from financial market and real estate transactions. This bill will not make a distinction between various parties, be they individuals or legal persons.

The government will accord special attention to supporting national industries and promoting domestic production in terms of quality and quantity. In the course of this endeavor, the government will foster the application of international quality control standards in order to meet the needs and requirements of the local market and promote competitiveness in foreign markets. It has drawn up the appropriate mechanisms for applying the provisions of the relevant law, which was endorsed by your esteemed house and came into effect as of 16 January 1995.

The government will foster individual initiative and encourage the private sector so that it may play an effective national role in the economic development endeavor, thus augmenting integration between the public and private sectors and increasing the private sector's contributions toward the adoption of economic decisions through consultations with its representatives in order to develop the relevant economic laws and legislation.

The government will gradually embark on a privatization endeavor that will initially target investments in the tourism sector and manufacturing industries. The government will keep its investments in strategic industries. It will examine the possibility of transforming some of its corporations into fully state-owned companies in order to provide them with future investments from national savings without resorting to finances from the treasury. These corporations are the Jordanian Electricity Authority, the Telecommunications Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation, and Royal Jordanian. The Petroleum Directorate at the Natural Resources Authority may also be transformed into a national petroleum company.

The government will accord special attention to promoting commodity and service exports and building the kingdom's foreign currency reserves through the continuous provision of tax exemptions for export profits, facilitating production input imports, and extending institutionalized aid to the promotion of national exports by increasing participation in international fairs, granting marketing scholarships, and helping producers improve their production in order to keep traditional markets and open new ones.

In the field of fiscal policy, the government will continue to work to reduce the budget deficit, excluding aid and foreign grants, to keep it below 4.3 percent of the gross national product for 1995 through improving the efficiency of public revenue collection and controlling and rationalizing current expenditures without undermining the level of the services rendered.

The government will continue its efforts to reduce the foreign debt burden in order to support the balance of payments and reduce the burdens on the state general budget by seeking to fully or partially write off debts or transform parts of them into grants used to finance investment ventures in Jordan. The government will also seek to reschedule debts on easy terms in the context of the executive agreements reached during the Paris Club meetings.

The government will be committed to laws related to domestic public debts and not to expand in local borrowing in order to enable the private sector to acquire the necessary credits from the banking system to finance its investment ventures.

The government will accelerate capital expenditure, especially in fast-implemented and labor-intensive projects such as rural and agricultural roads, schools and government premises, medical centers and hospitals, and dams and irrigation projects, with the aim of reviving economic activities and providing employment opportunities. Funds allocated for these projects in the budget are about 280 million dinars. The government will also seek to secure the needed soft-term financing of projects of the second chapter of the general budget, amounting to 390 million dinars, from brotherly and friendly countries and international foundations.

The government will give great attention to the tourism sector, springing from the fact that our country has a distinguished national wealth of archaeological sites and unique cultural and religious attractions which the government is keen to safeguard from any misuse and maintain as a witness to our heritage and history, and as part of our national and pan-Arab identity. The government will seek to turn tourism into a major source of income for our national economy. It will enhance the role of the Higher Council of Tourism and encourage the private sector to invest in this area by providing it with the opportunities and incentives that will enable it to compete in the regional and international tourism market.

The government will carry out infrastructure projects required for the establishment of investment ventures in various tourist attraction locations, especially in the areas of Petra, the Dead Sea, and the southern shore of al-'Aqabah, thus giving the private sector an opportunity to begin investment there. In addition, the Wadi Rum area will receive the special attention and care needed to develop it as a potential touristic attraction. The government will also form the Petra region council to secure and supervise the services in the area in a comprehensive manner.

The government will also develop the public antiquities law and activate the Antiquities Department in order to end the phenomenon of violating historical sites. It will also develop a data documentation system related to heritage and historical sites, and continue cooperation with local and international academic institutions and centers to conduct excavations and maintenance and renovation programs in order to safeguard these historical sites for future generations. The government will give all due attention to the Jordanian Tourism Authority in order to adequately carry out its duties, and will encourage Arab and domestic tourism because of its national and economic advantages.

In the field of energy and mineral resources, the government will continue its exploration for oil and other raw materials. It will also pursue efforts to exploit alternative energy sources such as oil shale. The government will continue to implement the rural fills plan that is aimed at providing electricity to the remaining population centers not yet enjoying this service, and these do not exceed one percent of the population of Jordan. The government will also continue to construct the power stations needed to cope with the growing demand on electricity and modernize the power supply grids. It will also continue to supply crude oil and its byproducts to meet the citizens' demand.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished deputies, out of the government's realization of the importance of Arab economic integration, it will seek the creation of a better atmosphere in order to restore inter-Arab relations to their previous state and reach a greater level of economic integration.

Stemming from the distinguished relationship between the sisterly Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, the government will pay special attention to building a common economic future which requires additional economic and social cooperation in a manner that will greatly benefit both fraternal peoples.

The government also seeks to cope with the international and regional developments, contain their results, adapt to them, and enhance the relations of partnership with the international economic blocs such as the European Union because so doing will have a positive impact on funding the economic projects and utilizing the international economic openness.

In the field of social security, the government will work for developing the social security umbrella to provide the basic needs and services to citizens by expanding the educational and health services, improving the annual salary raises for civil servants, adopting a national housing program for civil servants and those with limited incomes, and supporting the civil and military consumer corporations by increasing the customs duty exemptions granted to them.

The government believes in the just cause of the old civic and military pensioners. In accordance with His Majesty King Husayn's directives, the government is currently studying various alternatives to improve their pensions. A suitable decision will be made soon, as was pledged by the government before your esteemed house.

The government will continue to provide essential food commodities to citizens, represented by bread, rice, sugar, and powdered milk in quantities sufficient for consumption and at subsidized prices. It will also continue to give support to those who deserve it and secure the strategic reserve of the basic food supplies by increasing the storage capacities, expanding the building of supply complexes, including increasing the number of ordinary and cooled warehouses, as well as enlarging the grain silos in order to meet the growing consumption demand. The government will distribute these projects among all governorates of the Kingdom.

The group of commodities subject to fixed prices will be reconsidered. There will be a study on the importance of these commodities with regard to the citizen's expenses as well as on their relative importance in the consumer's food. The government will also support the quality and price control organs by providing them with sufficient and qualified cadres and the tools needed to activate the monitoring operations in various ways in order to protect the consumer from exploitation, cheating, and monopoly. In this regard, the government will cooperate with the Consumer's Protection Society. This government will not hesitate to inflict the severest punishment on those who make violations.

My government gives maximum priority to the problems of poverty and unemployment. It will do its utmost to reduce their negative impact. Despite the fact that a final solution needs intensive efforts and requires a long time, the national necessity makes it imperative to take quick measures in order to face these two problems. This can be done by supporting small productive and income-generating projects, encouraging investment, activating the role of the private sector in comprehensive development, and carrying out capital, job-creating projects.

It can also be done by expanding and diversifying the training and rehabilitation programs and increasing the number of people benefiting from these programs during 1995 to more than 25,000 trainees.

The government will also encourage private participation and activate the social aid institutions such as the Zakat [alms for the poor] Fund, the charitable societies, and the National Aid Fund whose allocations were increased by 14 percent for this year in order to expand the umbrella of those who benefit from its services. In addition, the cash aid to families was increased from 50 to 60 [Jordan] dinars per month. The government will activate the Development and Employment Fund and spread its services in all parts of the Kingdom in cooperation with the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the Queen 'Alya' Fund, and the voluntary institutions.

The government will form a higher council for the social aid and security network, which will include the concerned parties working in this regard in order to draw up a clear, comprehensive, and coordinated plan with the aim of providing aid to those deserving it, contributing to the elimination of poverty, and reducing the unemployment rate.

The government will seek to achieve a qualitative step in the field of social legislations to continue activating the woman's role in the process of comprehensive development and in family and child care. It will also pay special attention to the handicapped and to improving their incomes to secure a dignified life for them.

In the field of labor, the government will organize the labor market and provide employment opportunities for Jordanians who are looking for jobs. The government will also direct the local labor force toward benefiting from vocational training and rehabilitation programs to fill the available job opportunities. Moreover, it will seriously seek to create more job opportunities outside the homeland especially for the trained work force. The government will work on organizing everything related to foreign labor and correcting the status of the currently employed foreign labor in coordination with labor unions, employers, and other concerned parties. In this regard, the government will also reinforce the residence and foreigners' affairs law.

In its capacity as a savings financial institution, the Social Security Corporation will develop its investment policy in a joint partnership with the private sector to establish companies, projects, and investment in various fiscal tools such as loans, loan certificates, bonds, and real estate. It will also do so by keeping certain percentages of its surpluses in the form of deposits to meet its liquidity needs.

Moreover, the corporation is currently studying amending the provisions of the social security law in light of economic and social developments. Through this study, the corporation will reconsider the current insurance formula, including raising the minimum level of pension and disability salaries while maintaining a balance between the corporation's revenues and expenditures.

The corporation will also examine the possibility of providing health insurance for social security pensioners who do not benefit from civil and military health insurances or from such insurances provided by private companies and institutions. This will be a step toward covering those who do not benefit from health insurance in light of a study conducted to implement the health insurance project in cooperation with the Consultations Center at the University of Jordan.

Your Excellency Mr. Speaker; Distinguished Deputies; My government is concerned about developing the agricultural sector in a way to increase its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product and to improve the income of workers in this sector. In order to achieve this, the government will take measures aimed at efficiently improving the management of agricultural production, especially in relation to water and land without causing any harm to the environment.

Moreover, the government will intensify agricultural research and work on moving its programs from experimental stations to the fields and will direct these researches toward meeting the farmer's needs.

The government will improve services dealing with agricultural guidance and the protection of crops. It will also improve services in the veterinary field through mobile clinics. Moreover, a veterinary medicine quality control laboratory will be established.

In order to contribute to the development of agricultural production and land reclamation, the government will produce 7 million forest plants to be distributed to citizens free of charge, in addition to 1.5 million olive plants to be distributed to farmers at competitive prices. Moreover, the government will help in reclaiming 125,000 donums of farmland by planting it with fruit trees and cultivating forests in 60,000 additional donums.

In an effort to remedy the negative impact of small agricultural properties, and their being subject to joint tenancy and fragmentation, the government will prepare a program to allocate agricultural lots as soon as the law on dividing immovable assets, presented to your esteemed house, is endorsed. Soft loans will also be provided to continue grouping properties by financing buy outs of other shares.

In the field of financing, the government will complete measures to incorporate sources of government agricultural lending into the Agricultural Loan Corporation, to enable it to meet the activities of cooperative societies and of the Farmers Union to enable them, in turn, to secure the requirements of production at reasonable prices. Moreover, the government will take measures to establish agricultural industries, in addition to supporting agricultural marketing activities.

To carry out these measures efficiently, the government will pay special attention to the importance of the institutional development process and to enhancing popular participation in formulating agriculture-related decisions.

In the field of water and irrigation, and in the light of Jordan's restoration of its water rights in the al-Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers, the government will give due attention to the task of developing the utilizing these resources. It will seek to secure the required financing of a storage conversion dam on the al-Yarmuk River, and the extension of a water transportation system from the Jordan River to King 'Abdallah Canal, and another for drinking water from the al-Yarmuk River to the center of the Jordan Valley, in addition to studying the possibility of building one or more storage dams on the Jordan River.

The government will continue to implement ventures aimed at upgrading the efficiency of the systems of transporting and distributing drinking and irrigation water in order to minimize loss and waste, in addition to improving sewage systems and upgrading the efficiency of water treatment stations in order to safeguard the environment, protect water sources from pollution, and reuse recycled water.

The government will pursue the implementation of a plan to build a number of major dams and expand excavations and the building of desert dams in cooperation with the Armed Forces in order to redouble the kingdom's storage capabilities.

The government will also develop the Wadi al-'Arabah area with the aim of making it a population attraction center, in addition to completing studies to develop the

Dead Sea shore and provide it with the needed infrastructure suitable for touristic investment.

Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Deputies, the government will take the necessary steps to expand the health insurance umbrella and medical services by opening and operating new hospitals in al-Karak, Dayr Abu Sa'id, Yajuz, Irbid, Ma'an, and Sahab, and by building hospitals in the central Jordan Valley area, the Bani Kinanah district, and Wadi Musa. The government will also establish first aid and emergency centers in Ma'an, Irbid, and al-Salt, in addition to establishing medical equipment maintenance centers, improving primary medical care services through establishing more health centers and providing all the Health Ministry hospitals with full boarding services.

The government will give more attention to the issue of food control. In order to realize this, the government is determined to draft a law to establish an independent institution in charge of all issues related to food in an effort to safeguard the citizens' health and safety. The government will also develop and modernize laboratory services, especially in the fields of food, medicine, and environment. A nursing faculty will be established in the Governorate of al-Karak to meet the needs for nursing cadres.

In the field of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, my government will hold municipal elections for all municipalities on a certain day in July this year in accordance with the law. The government will make sure that the elections take place in a fair and democratic atmosphere.

The government will pursue efforts to draft an environment draft law to meet the major objectives of the national strategy for the protection of environment. The Bank of Urban and Rural Development is currently studying the possibility of exempting local councils from paying part of the interests on the 1995 loans, in addition to the possibility of allocating part of its profits to support local councils suffering from difficult financial conditions, provided that these councils draw up plans to improve their financial conditions with the approval and under the supervision of the bank, and linking this allocation with progress achieved toward the implementation of the program.

Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Deputies, the government will reshape the transportation policies, develop legislations, restructure some public institutions, encourage investment, improve services, establish administrative information systems, develop the safety factors. All this can be achieved by reorganizing the transportation of passengers and goods, determining the Kingdom's needs of various transportation vehicles, stimulating investment to provide them, establishing service facilities in terms of arrival and departure stations and rest houses, and modernizing the infrastructure of the land crossings.

The government will attach maximum importance to the port of al- 'Aqabah in order to activate its role, upgrade its efficiency, and improve its potentials to meet the anticipated increase in passengers and goods. It will also encourage the national maritime transportation companies and give an opportunity to the private sector to invest in this field.

In the air transportation field, the government will work out a comprehensive plan to modernize and develop the Jordanian airports. Royal Jordanian will pay the necessary attention to increasing its capability, upgrading its performance, and modernizing its fleet, so it will continue to be the bridge connecting Jordan with the world, thus carrying out its national role in carrying the image of our accomplishments to the world states and nations.

The government will also work out a complete concept on linking the areas of economic activity, the densely-populated areas, and the neighboring countries with a network of railways. It will continue to sign bilateral agreements in the fields of land, sea, and air transportation in a way that will achieve the interest of the country and citizens and secure markets for the Jordanian products.

My government will continue to implement major and minor road projects, in addition to rural and agricultural road projects. It will also provide the necessary maintenance for them in order to preserve this national wealth. During this year, some major roads will be completed. Most important of these roads is the al-Zarah- Ghawr al-Hadithah road. There will also be emphasis on the agricultural roads to facilitate the access of farmers to their lands and the utilization of these lands.

The government will focus on housing activities, spread housing projects throughout the country, and restructure the housing sector in order to activate the role of the private sector and serve those with low incomes.

The government will address the al-'Aqabah back road in a way that will make travel on this road safe and smooth. It will also seek to expand and modernize the postal services, especially in the field of electronic express mail. Moreover, it will establish new post offices, upgrade the existing ones, and accelerate and expand the postal services.

The government will also work on expanding the telephone services by focusing on the implementation of the national communications program, increasing the telephone services availability from the current figure of 7 percent to 11 percent in 1998 by adding 250,000 new telephone lines and providing telephone services in 553 locations distributed in all governorates. It will also activate the role of the private sector in this field to develop and expand the telephone services, provided that the government continues both supervision and monitoring.

Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Deputies, while my government is presenting your esteemed house with this statement, it realizes that the new phase of the homeland's life, plans, and aspirations cannot be isolated from its Arab and Islamic environment, from the region's circumstances, and from the developments and changes the world is witnessing.

From this premise, my government asserts its full concern about achieving Arab solidarity. It will work for establishing close relations with all fraternal Arab states based on mutual confidence and respect with the aim of achieving the greatest level of coordination and integration in various political, economic, social, and cultural fields as well as activating the institutions of joint Arab action, led by the Arab League. The Government will continue the move it has begun to clear the Arab atmosphere in order to unify positions. It will also reemphasize the building of an Arab order that responds to the requirements of this phase and guarantees the pan-Arab security, so the nation will occupy its due status in the world that is being formed around it in a way that makes it imperative on this nation to defend its interests and prove its international and human presence in the best possible way.

From this premise, the government affirms the depth of relations between the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian people and Jordan's continuous support for the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative and for their right to self-determination on their national soil and the establishment of their independent state. The government will continue to enhance this relationship and support the steadfastness of the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The government is eager to establish close and comprehensive ties with the Palestinian National Authority according to a clear vision that ensures the national interest of the two fraternal people.

My government views the peace treaty with Israel as another step toward achieving peace through which we regained our sovereignty over our occupied land and waters. From the premise of its commitment to the historical Arab rights and international conventions and agreements, my government affirms that it will continue to seek the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on restoring all Arab rights, and liberating the entire occupied Arab lands in implementation of international legitimacy resolutions 242, 338 and 425. The government will continue bilateral and multilateral negotiations to reach agreements that secure the achievement of our full national and pan-Arab goals and interests.

My government will continue efforts to ease the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and end the embargo imposed on them in cooperation with the fraternal and friendly countries.

With respect to Jordan's relations with the brethren in Islamic countries, these relations will continue to be based on the eagerness to strengthen brotherly ties and mutual respect, to bolster bilateral relations and fields of joint action and support its institutions in the best interest of our Islamic nation and to reflect Islam's tolerant image. The government is also eager to support the Muslim brothers who are facing persecution and aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The government also affirms its eagerness to ease the suffering of the fraternal Chechen people.

On the international level, my government is eager to abide by the UN Charter, respect international legitimacy, defend human rights and the right of every people to self-determination in a world governed by security and peace and totally and definitively free of mass destruction weapons, enhance Jordan's relations with international economic and political blocs and develop bilateral relations with friendly countries in a manner that secures Jordan's interest and enhances its distinguished international status.

In conclusion, my government submits its policy statement to your honorable house asking for a vote of confidence on its basis and hopes that your deliberations would enrich the plans and projects it contains and that there would be cooperation between us to achieve what is best for our people, country, and nation under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, may god protect him as the leader of the march and an asset to the nation.

May' God's peace and blessings be upon you.

7 'Jordanian Afghans' Cases Submitted To Appeals Court

JN2201144895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Attorneys Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib and Samih al-Husayni have pleaded the cases of seven defendants convicted in the "Jordanian Afghans" case to the Court of Cassation [highest court of appeal].

The pleas submitted by the two attorneys contended that the appeals are being brought before the Court of Cassation because the interrogation measures used were invalid, particularly since they violated the Penal Code Procedures Law. The two lawyers also cited duplicate testimony, the absence of counsel for the defense during interrogation, and the failure to note the testimony of prosecution witnesses. Furthermore, the lawyers argued that the statements of evidence were invalid, and that the testimony of prosecution witnesses was unsubstantiated. Moreover, the verdicts contested are illegal, the lawyers said.

The appeals for cassation also said that the judiciary is an institution that must be based on justice and fairness. As such, it should uphold right and judge people fairly. It must work to reveal the truth clearly. For all these reasons, those for whom appeals of cassation are being brought before the court request that their appeals be accepted so they may be submitted within the permissible time limits. The defense panel also requested that its appeals be heard in a special session, particularly since there are some substantive legal points the defense seeks to raise and clarify in detail.

Al-Hariri: Israel Shows No Positive Signs in Syria Talks

NC2501184995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that the ball is in the Israeli court and that developments in the region only highlight the correctness of the Lebanese stand, which is demanding a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. Al-Hariri remarked to journalists as he was leaving the presidential palace that Israel did not show any positive signs during the Syrian-Israeli military talks.

Hizballah-Israeli Forces Continue Clashes

Attack on Israeli Patrol Described

NC2501185795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lahd forces radio has noted that three resistance men were killed during an attack carried out this morning. The radio said that this afternoon the resistance fighters attacked the posts at Bayt Lif and Tallusah. It also said that the SLA artillery responded to the shelling.

This shelling came some hours after the attack Hizballah carried out against an Israeli patrol in the western sector of the occupied security strip near the village of al-Rami, which is two kilometers from the Lebanese-Israeli border. Three Hizballah fighters were killed in this attack and two Israeli soldiers were injured, one of them seriously.

An official in Hizballah said that the fundamentalist fighters who set up an ambush for the Israeli patrol succeeded in killing and injuring all its members, including the officer commanding them. He added that the Hizballah fighters used antiarmor and SAM-7 rockets, which they fired at the Israeli helicopters, which in turn opened fire on them. One of these helicopters was hit and was seen heading south trailing smoke, according to the statement by the Hizballah official. An earlier account by the Lebanese security forces and the Lahd forces radio reported that six resistance fighters had been killed. These sources then took back this figure and confirmed the death of just three Hizballah members.

3 Hizballah Fighters Killed

NC2601082895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The group of martyrs Anwar Muhammad 'Atiyah Sukkar and Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid Shakir—the heroes of the Netanya suicidal operation in occupied Palestine—waged a heroic confrontation against a 15-member Israeli foot patrol at the Bayt Lif-Ramyah-al-Qawzah triangle near the border with occupied Palestine at 0830 yesterday.

Fierce clashes involving machine guns and rockets ensued between the mujahidin and the members of the patrol, during which the enemy patrol commander was killed instantly and the patrol members were killed or wounded.

As usual our heroes demonstrated unequalled courage and boldness in spite of the difficult conditions surrounding the confrontation. Three heroic mujahidin were martyred in the confrontation. They were martyr Musa Nimr Hamdan of the village of Qanarit, martyr Yusuf 'Ali Faqih from Barish, and martyr Nidal 'Abbas al-Hajj Husayn from the village of Tayr Harfa.

A statement by the Islamic Resistance said the Fire Support Unit of the Islamic Resistance directed its concentrated fire against the enemy's assembly points in the Balat, Basil, Humayd, and Bayt Lif positions to obstruct any support for the target patrol. Several fortifications at these positions were destroyed. Ambulances were seen rushing to the positions to move the casualties.

While the enemy was bringing reinforcements to the confrontation arena, Zionist helicopters intervened, raking the area. The ground defenses of the Islamic Resistance confronted them and forced them to retreat.

Hizballah Warns Fresh Military Action

LD2601153595 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan. 26, IRNA—The Hizballah movement of Lebanon has warned in case of any massive attack by Israel, neither the Zionist army nor the Jewish settlements could escape from the retaliatory measures of Muslim mujahideen.

Beirut based daily AL-SAFIR- in its Thursday's issue quoted a senior Hizballah official as warning that in case the Zionist regime embarked on fresh military action, no place in Lebanon or occupied Palestine would be secure for Zionist troops and civilians. The Hizballah official said that before making any decision in this regard Zionist officials should first think about the dangerous consequences of their action.

The Zionist regime will certainly be frustrated in its attempt to disrupt coordination between Lebanon and Syria and to pit the Lebanese Government against the Islamic resistance movement in that country.

Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Shelling

NC2701090595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah in south Lebanon—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zionist attacks against the liberated areas were renewed last night after a day of [word indistinct] calm. At about 2100, enemy forces at the [placename indistinct] post raked Wadi al-'Uyun with 12.7-mm rounds. Wadi al-Saluqi and the outskirts of

Shaqra' were raked by the enemy position in Hula. At 2110, four 105-mm shells fired by a Zionist tank in the Bayt Yahun post landed in the region between Bayt Yahun and [placename indistinct]. The forces at the Bayt Yahun post also racked the periphery of 'Ayta al-Jabal using 12.7-mm machine-gun rounds at 2200. This was followed by the firing of a 105-mm artillery round. Just after 2230, Wadi Sribbin came under 155-mm and 105-mm artillery shelling originating from the occupation posts in Yarin and Rshaf. The shelling continued until 2300, when the Blat post fired 155-mm rounds at the nearby valleys. Three 155-mm shells fired by the enemy position in al-Zaffatah landed in the Habbush River basin. Enemy artillery in al-Dabshah fired an 81-mm shell on the area around al-'Ubaydat. Some time after 0030, a Zionist gunboat cruised the coast off 'Atrun and [placename indistinct], directing its floodlights toward the beach.

Hizballah Official: U.S. 'Pained' by Attacks

NC2701080395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The steadfastness of the Resistance men and their confidence that victory is not linked with material capabilities has strengthened our people's faith and enabled the combatants to score great successes. In a lecture at the Arts Faculty in al-Biqa', Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim said: The idea of [word indistinct], hope for the future, and al-Mahdi [a figure many Muslims believe will appear at the end of time to restore righteousness briefly before the day of judgment] can change the equation and confuse the enemy.

Referring to attempts by the United States and the Zionist enemy to pressure Lebanon by any means, Shaykh Qasim said: The result is that we have remained steadfast and scored so many victories that America and the enemy are demanding the Resistance be stopped and Hizballah disarmed. He added: If they were not pained by our activity, they would not have made these demands.

Shaykh Qasim said the peace process is actually a capitulation process and that the Zionist pressure is aimed at seizing our land and rights. He stressed that we can achieve victory and change the equation if we stick to our rights. He said: We are not in a hurry to achieve victory tomorrow, but it is important that we adhere to our right. It is better for us to die in dignity than to remain under the rule of darkness.

Size, Duties of Joint U.S. Security Committee Curtailed

NC2501205995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers has made decisions on all issues that were brought up regarding the joint Lebanese-U.S. Security Committee. It reduced its size, constitution, and duties as follows: Lebanon's ambassador in Washington Riyad Tabbarah will hold contacts with U.S. officials on technical and security matters at Beirut airport and will rely on expert advice from specialists, who may be from among the members of the Lebanese committee named earlier or from outside the committee.

Answering a question on why the security committee was formed earlier, Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and interior minister, who read out the Council's resolutions, said: When the committee was formed, this was not done in line with a cabinet decisions. It was called the security committee by the media. As for me, al-Murr added, I called it a diplomatic committee. And there is nothing wrong with adding or deleting the names of certain people from this committee. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Contacts Saudi, Yemeni Officials

JN2601185495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced that Damascus is in contact with Saudi Arabia and Yemen, noting that he has made contacts with senior officials in both countries in the past few hours. He said that those officials told him that they want to ease the situation on the border. Al-Shar' ruled out dispatching a Syrian mediator to both countries in the near future, adding that the situation does not require such a step.

Commentary Warns Israel Against Reprisals

JN2401212495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] O brother strugglers: At dawn tomorrow, 11 months will have passed since the perpetration of the massacre by Baruch Goldstein, the slain, murderous, and accursed Israeli terrorist. Had the international community taken Israel to task in the immediate aftermath of the massacre, Israeli mobs would not have dared to stage demonstrations in the wake of the Netanya operation, raising pictures of Baruch Goldstein, the butcher of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, yesterday and the day before yesterday. It is to be noted that any Palestinian Arab retaliation against the enemy is just and legitimate. Besides, it is part of the persistent and continuous struggle to liberate the Palestinian Arab homeland, which is under Israeli occupation.

The alien, intrusive, and parasitical settlers are free to raise pictures of Baruch Goldstein as they wish. Likewise, they are free to raise pictures of all butchers throughout the history of mankind. For instance, they are free to raise the pictures of Hitler, Himmler, Eichmann, and Klaus Barbie. They are free to even raise the picture of the old Roman Emperor Nero if they so wish.

Yes, these alien and intrusive Zionists, who are living on Palestinian Arab territories, are free to raise the pictures of these criminals, who were the mentors of Israeli terrorists. As a matter of fact, Israeli criminals have surpassed their mentors, as proven by their current practices. By so doing, the alien and intrusive Zionists have shown that they do not have a collective historical memory despite their claims to the contrary. We will elaborate on this later.

The Israeli mobs who have raised the pictures of Baruch Goldstein, the perpetrator of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, have not done anything different from what has been done by their Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. For Rabin felt at ease when he ordered the Shin Bet yesterday to use greater physical pressure against the Palestinian Arabs. Israel has been using such pressure since its inception. It goes without saying that the order Rabin issued did not use such crude terms. It was couched in deceptive terminology, running as follows: The Shin Bet, the domestic Israeli espionage organ, is allowed to use a reasonable measure of physical pressure against Palestinian prisoners. Despite the mild terms used, this order smacks of flagrant savagery, particularly to those who are familiar with the Shin Bet's terrorist crimes. These crimes were exposed to the Israeli public, particularly when the Israeli newspaper HADASHOT published the picture of two Shin Bet agents killing two wounded Palestinian captives. In the aftermath of this scandal, the Shin Bet chief was sacked to protect the false image of Israeli democracy and rule of law. It is the Zionist propaganda machines that are promoting this image.

However, the reasonable measure of physical pressure authorized, as Rabin put it, literally means executing Palestinian prisoners under torture. This has been proven by the New York City coroner, who came to occupied Palestine at the request of the family of martyr Mustafa 'Akawi and did an autopsy on his chaste body. This coroner reached conclusive evidence that Mustafa 'Akkawi was martyred when he received a heavy blow to his head from a heavy object. This means that he died under torture, and not as a result of his deteriorating health conditions, as Israeli sources claimed at the time.

At any rate, we, the Palestinian Arab people, would like to remind the Shin Bet spies and other elements of the Israeli espionage services that no terrorist Israeli crime will go unpunished. For the Palestinian Arabs will ruthlessly avenge such crimes. As a matter of fact, the ruthless Palestinian punishment could reach the very leaders of the Shin Bet. Has Yitzhaq Rabin, who only yesterday ordered the Shin Bet to execute Palestinian prisoners under torture, forgotten that the Palestinian fedayeen managed to reach into the heart of the Shin Bet in occupied Jerusalem, particularly in the Romema neighborhood some two years ago when they executed a senior Shin Bet official after seizing his bag, which was full of sensitive information, secrets, and Israeli plans and plots against the security of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine? Israel has thus failed to recapture this extremely important bag; and any future efforts to do so will also fail.

Yitzhaq Rabin has warned the Palestinian Arab people that they will have to experience greater Israeli terrorism. And Rabin was not the only Israeli official to make such hateful statements. For opposition leader Netanyahu demanded greater Israeli terrorism in the occupied homeland. Needless to say that Netanyahu is an offshoot of Israeli terrorism. For he is the leader of the Likud; that is, the successor to Yitzhaq Shamir, the butcher of the massacres of [words indistinct], 'Uyun Qarah [Rishon LeZiyyon] and the holy al-Aqsa Mosque some five years ago. Moreover, Shamir succeeded Menachem Begin, the butcher of the Dayr Yasin and Sabra and Shatila massacres. Menachim Begin was a pupil of Jabotinsky, who committed terrorist practices near the al-Buraq Wall [Wailing Wall] in Arab Palestine in 1929. Nonetheless, the Palestinian Arab people deterred him and his Zionist gangs firmly although the British colonial troops were there to protect Jabotinsky and his gangs.

Given the fact that Netanyahu has urged greater terrorism, and that Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered his troops and spies to carry out greater terrorism, the Israeli Government and opposition will both be responsible for the upcoming Israeli terrorism if it materializes. It is to be noted that the Israeli public will also be blamed for the possible new wave of Israeli terrorism. This is because for the past three days, tens of thousands of Israelis have been raising pictures of Baruch Godstein, the slain and accursed butcher who carried out the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, on behalf of Israeli fanatics.

In other words, the whole of Israel will be responsible for any terrorist stupidity that could be perpetrated against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland. It should be clear that the party that will be blamed is the one that should receive punishment. We do not wish to elaborate on the indisputable Palestinian Arab punishment. Nonetheless, we would like to note the failure of Israel's collective memory. This memory is strong when old myths, legends, and fabrications are concerned. But when the issue concerns hard facts on the ground, Israel's memory becomes extremely weak. As a matter of fact, Israel becomes a nation without memory. Israel cannot refute this.

Twenty-two years ago, Israel had a police or interior minister named Shlomo Hillel. This minister once took part in the funeral of an Israeli terrorist killed by acts of Palestinian Arab vengeance. The Israeli mourners then hurled mud at him. This is reminiscent of the vituperations articulated against Yitzhaq Rabin in the city of Netanya the day before yesterday. This shows that the Israeli terrorism has continued to be perpetrated against Arabs for the past 22 years. But these 22 years have also seen the Palestinians mete out fair punishment against Israeli terrorists to avenge their dead. The Palestinian Arab vengeance is commensurate with Israeli terrorism. This is what Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli opposition leader Netanyahu should understand. As for Israeli mobs, who are currently raising the picture of the accursed murderer, the butcher of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, they must realize that at dawn tomorrow it will be 11 months since the massacre committed on their behalf by Godstein. Despite the fact that 11 months have elapsed since this massacre, it is to be recalled that the Arab retaliation for it is yet to be completed.

Press Says Israel Creates Climate of Violence

JN2601092295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the tense atmosphere prevailing the region. It says: Israel's rulers created this atmosphere through methods that undermine the peace process, thus turning it into mere empty words that have lost their meaning and missed their objective.

AL-BA'TH says: Having strangled the peace process and surrounded it with a false and rejected peace, the Israeli rulers will be stupid if they do not anticipate further resistance and escalation of the rejectionist reactions. This is because these rulers insist on ignoring the basis and substance of the problem; namely, occupation.

Reviewing the developments of the peace process, AL-BA'TH emphasizes a fact which is ignored by Israel; namely, that the link between achieving peace and ending the occupation is the axis of the peace process. Peace cannot be achieved in the presence of occupation. Regardless of their skill in falsification and deception, Israel's rulers cannot have both peace and land. The continuation of occupation means continued violence and loss of security and stability.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel is evading the requisites of peace by fostering violent reactions in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon. The paper says that the realities emphasize that Israel is the party which created, and is creating violence. It explains: Occupying others' territories is violence. Expelling people from their territories and homes is violence. Killing innocent people by official Israeli death squads on the street is violence. Demolishing the houses and confiscating the lands are also acts of violence. Arresting tens of thousands of Palestinians, shelling the Lebanese villages, and killing women, children, and old people are extreme acts of violence.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: These Israelis acts of violence constitute official state terrorism which draws reactions from people who seek to liberate their land from the yoke of the Israeli occupier. The paper adds: Establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on the international resolutions will end violence, secure the interests of all, and remove the threat of war.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Israel's logic and practices can only create a volatile situation which may be followed by explosions. Syria has always cautioned against the dangers posed by Israeli policy. This policy ignores the simplest bases of human rights and tries to circumvent the simplest facts and requisites of peace.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Have the signatories to the separate deals managed to end the conflict and its manifestations and facts? Has the Oslo agreement managed to obliterate the Palestinian people's objectives and national aspirations? Has Israel's ignorance of the priority of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Golan managed to achieve security and stability?

The paper says: In view of all this, we assert that Israel's continued trickery and procrastination about providing the requisites of peace as well as its failure to return the occupied territories can only lead to further violence, tension, and confrontation.

AL-THAWRAH holds Israel responsible for evading the requisites of peace and working to kill the opportunities for a just and comprehensive peace. The paper indicates that all this will lead to further acts of violence because occupation breeds legitimate resistance. This fact is known by all peoples throughout history, and it cannot be changed by Israel's attempt to falsely brand resistance with terrorism.

Accordingly, the paper believes that the distorted deals which were concluded, are in fact time bombs and mere ink on paper. Implementation of these deals is impossible, and their continuation will be more impossible. Israel should learn the lessons and implement the international resolutions in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Afghanistan

Golboddin Militia Loses Ghazni, Flees to Logar

LD2601191695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The dead and injured militiamen of Golboddin are being transferred from Ghazni to Charasiab. Golboddin's militiamen, who were defeated in Ghazni Province, started today to transfer their dead and injured men to Charasiab. Eyewitnesses say the other defeated militiamen of Golboddin are fleeing to Baraki Rajan, Logar Province, and other areas in this province. The losses of Golboddin's militia are very heavy in Ghazni. When Ghazni Province was entirely cleared of Golboddin's militia two days ago, the fighting began in Wardak Province to mop up the militia.

Reports coming from Wardak Province to the radio and television of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, say that Golboddin Hekmatyar is now staying in Wardak to prevent his militia's escape from Maydan Shar and to send them to the fronts to fight against the mojahedin. Eyewitnesses in the capital and other places of Wardak Province say the militia's morale is very low and they have no ability to resist the mojahedin of the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. Most of the militiamen are thinking of defecting to the mojahedin or escaping to Logar or Charasiab.

High Council Issues Statement on Current Issues

LD2601212595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Statement by the High Council of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], dated 25 January 95:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our free-born and proud country—Afghanistan—is at a crucial stage of its history. The decadent anti national and puppet regime was toppled as a result of the Jihad and the heroic struggle of the country's brave men, and international communism was condemned to elimination. The Islamic State was set up in Afghanistan after the victory of the revolution.

However, after the establishment of Islamic sovereignty, a bloody and destructive war under various titles and pretexts, through foreign provocation, was started by those groups trying to grasp a monopoly of power.

Our compatriots know better the causes of fighting, destruction, and losses. Our people see that the warmongering elements on every occasion and at every stage make new excuses for continuing the fighting. While the ISA in each case and in each stage has shown a tangible flexibility, and made concessions in order to end the fighting, to restore peace, and provide facilities for a better standard of living under peaceful and stable conditions. Now that efforts have been intensified for the restoration of peace and for the future political life of the country, and the ISA, having a desire, program, and policy to restore peace and serve the people, has expressed time and again, through statements, its readiness to transfer power. The warmongering forces and groups, instead of taking part in these efforts, speak of the failure of the peace efforts, launched at national and international levels. Thus, they want to impose the fighting on a broader dimension on our persecuted people.

Expressing resolute support for the statement of the ISA, the High Council of the ISA says the following:

In consideration of readiness to transfer power to a person, forum, and an acceptable mechanism, repeatedly expressed by the ISA leader, the ground has been prepared for the transfer of power and it is necessary that all sides cooperate in the realization of this process. Any threat of fighting or initiating new clashes will clearly be regarded as a sabotage to efforts for the restoration of peace. The perpetrators of these clashes are not paying attention to the people's wishes to choose the country's leader [words indistinct].

Being in a better and powerful military-political position, the state denounces the use of force and solution of issues by military force; while the enemy speaks of renewed fighting, ending the cease-fire and closing roads. We believe that the people of Afghanistan have clearly identified the warmongering and adventurist forces and have drawn up a line between them and the Islamic State, which is between the warmongering and peace-seeking forces. The international society, the friendly and peace-seeking countries, and international organizations should also do the same and identify and distinguish between warmongering and peace-seeking elements.

The international society should keep in mind that those who doubt peace efforts for Afghanistan and regard these efforts unsuccessful, have no other objective than to sabotage the process of peace and to start fighting.

The High Council of the ISA believes that the international community, friendly countries, and international organizations, as the people of Afghanistan who have actually taken position in favor of peace, reconciliation, and national understanding, must also declare their decisive and unreserved solidarity with efforts for peace, and should not provide the opportunity to selfish, opportunists, and monopoly-seeking individuals. They should not allow the warmongering elements to create more pain and misery for the persecuted people of our country.

The High Council of the ISA asks all countries to close the military, logistic centers, and propaganda offices of the opposition forces to the ISA in their countries. Because these bases are no longer the bases of the period of Jihad and migration. The opposition forces activities in their countries are against the national unity and the supreme interests of the people of Afghanistan.

Seeking help from Almighty God, the High Council of the ISA fully believes in the decisive and eminent success of the country's Muslim nation. The ISA [words indistinct] regards as useful and advantageous the continuation of endeavors for the restoration of peace and formation of a broad-based government, and expresses its support for these efforts. With confidence we can say that peace will be restored in our country and the fighting will end. The people of Afghanistan, with confidence and with belief in the restoration of peace and mutual coexistence, will take broader steps for progress. Verily, success comes from God [preceding sentence in Arabic].

India

Jammu Republic Day Bombing Said 'Deadliest Yet'

BK2601141095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jammu, India, Jan 26 (AFP)—Eight people were killed and 60 injured when three bombs exploded at a packed stadium here Thursday [26 January] while the governor of the troubled Indian state of Kashmir was delivering a Republic Day speech.

Governor K.V. Krishna Rao was shaken but unhurt by the blasts which ripped through a stadium here, sparking a stampede among the crowd attending the 45th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Indian republic, police said.

Two Moslem separatist guerrilla groups, the dominant Hizbul Mujahideen and the Al-Jehad, separately took credit for the blasts in statements issued in Srinagar, the Kashmiri summer capital.

Krishna Rao, at a press conference just hours after the attack, accused Pakistani intelligence agents of staging the bombing with the assistance of local police officers sympathetic to the Moslem guerrillas.

"We did have intelligence reports indicating that Pakistani agencies will kick up violence in Jammu today," he said, adding that "there could be more blasts."

He said the attack was a bid by Pakistan to sabotage Indian government plans to hold elections in Kashmir, which is claimed by both Islamabad and New Delhi.

The governor, a former Indian army chief, promised a high-level inquiry into the bombing, which came despite tight security at the Maulana Azad Stadium.

Eight people were killed and 60 injured, an official spokesman said, revising the earlier toll of seven dead and 46 wounded. An injured soldier died in hospital, he said.

Two soldiers, two policemen, two employees of the government's information department and an unidentified civilian had died earlier, Krishna Rao said, and several senior state government officials were among the injured.

All official functions were cancelled and the army was put on alert as protests flared in this Kashmir winter capital following the attack. Political parties called for a general strike on Friday to protest the bombings.

Police said two bombs triggered by remote control exploded inside the stadium, one within 10 yards (metres) of the podium where Krishna Rao was finishing his speech, and one in a VIP lounge.

The other blast occurred near the entrance to the stadium, where 35,000 people had gathered to listen to speeches and watch a parade by army and paramilitary troops, police said.

The bombs left five-foot-deep (1.6-metre) craters in the ground. The first device went off at 10:15 a.m. (0445 GMT) and the others within five minutes of it.

The explosions triggered a stampede as panic-stricken spectators, including a large number of schoolchildren ran for the exits.

Protestors angry at the security lapse set fire to an official car and a police van outside the stadium, witnesses said.

Some 4,000 people gathered at a hospital where the injured were taken, shouting slogans against the state administration and the police.

Shops closed down and the army was alerted to be ready for deployment in the event of Hindu-Moslem violence in this predominantly Hindu city.

Three rockets were fired meanwhile at the Bakshi stadium in Srinagar, the Kashmiri summer capital, while an official Republic Day celebration was being held there, police said.

There were no casualties in the rocket attacks, which came despite the preventive arrests of hundreds of suspected Moslem militants.

Moslem militants fighting for an end to Indian rule over Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, have targetted previous Republic Day celebrations but Thursday's attack in Jammu was the deadliest yet.

The Indian government has announced plans to hold legislative elections in Kashmir this year in a move it hopes will quell the five-year-old Moslem separatist campaign that has left more than 10,000 people dead.

India, which became a republic on January 26, 1950 following independence from British rule in 1947, accuses Pakistan of arming and training the Moslem militants battling for an end to Indian rule. Pakistan denies the charge.

Inquiry Ordered; Rao Comments

BK2701052095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General M.A. Zaki, will conduct an inquiry into yesterday's bomb blast in Jammu and the security lapses resulting in the planting of the bombs at the venue of the function. Some experts on explosive from Delhi will assist in the investigation.

As reported, seven persons were killed and more than 50 injured in three powerful bomb explosions during the Republic Day function at the Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. The explosions occurred when the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, was addressing a large gathering after unfurling the national flag and taking the salute at the march past. The governor escaped unhurt. The governor's adviser, Mr. V.K. Goswamy; the state Janata Dal leader, Mr. Dhanraj Bargotra; and some senior officers were among those seriously injured. The state government has announced an ex-gratia payment of 100,000 rupees to the next of kin of those killed in the explosions. Two of the seriously injured were air lifted to Chandigarh yesterday. Mr. V.K. Goswamy was discharged from hospital last evening. Two leaders, Mr. Mohammad Yusuf Taragani of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and Mr. Dhanraj Bargotra of Janata Dal, are still in the hospital, but are out of danger.

The prime minister has condemned the incident. He called upon the people to be vigilant against forces trying to disrupt the process of normalization. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said such acts would only strengthen the result to fight terrorist. Meanwhile, the state unit of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has given a call for Jammu bundh [strike] today to condemn yesterday's bomb blast. An all party committee has also given a call for a similar bundh in Kathua.

The governor had a meeting with prominent citizens of Jammu yesterday to discuss the situation arising out of the blast incidents. He sought their cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony. They assured him of full cooperation in this regard.

Twenty-three militants have surrendered before the security forces along with the arms and ammunition in Baramula town of Jammu and Kashmir. Most of them belong to the militant outfit Hizbul Mujahidin.

Article Views Nonattendance at NPT Pre-Conference

BK2701090095 Delhi THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jan 95 p 13

["News Analysis" by K. Subrahmanyam: "India's 'No' to Observer at NPT Extension Conference"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth and final preparatory meeting (Prepcon) for the April 1995 extension conference of the Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] was held two days ago. Though invited to send observers India has not done so, but some knowledgeable Indians from non-governmental organisations and media will be covering the conference. This Prepcon is important as it will take up all the important procedural issues which were deferred at the last three Prepcons.

Questions about India's participation as an observer to the main extension conference of the NPT were raised at a recent press conference by foreign secretary K. Srinivasan. He indicated that India will not be participating as an observer. This decision makes India unique since the other two socalled "undeclared nuclear states" Israel and Pakistan are reported to be sending observers. In the past too, when the NPT review conferences took place, Pakistan and Israel sent observers while India stayed out. India's position on NPT cannot be compared to Israel or Pakistan. While India's objection to the NPT is based on the objection that the Treaty does not promote non-proliferation, is discriminatory and legitimises nuclear weapons, Israel and Pakistan did not have any such objections to principle to the treaty. They did not vote against the Treaty. Israel developed a nuclear arsenal because it felt threatened by the entire Arab world. Pakistan all the time talks of joining the NPT but only along with India.

India was one of the sponsors of the UN resolution in 1965, along with other non-aligned nations, for a treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. The objective was to freeze the production of nuclear weapons by nuclear weapon powers and to forestall development of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear weapon powers. In the following two years, during the debate on the draft treaty in the Geneva conference on disarmament, the Indian delegate V.C. Trivedi fought tooth and nail to make it a truly non-proliferation treaty.

He stipulated that a genuine nonproliferation treaty should fulfill five conditions. 1) It should lead to genuine nuclear disarmament, 2) It should be fool-proof and contain no loopholes 3) There must be a reciprocity of obligations between nuclear weapon powers and non-nuclear weapon states 4) A Comprehensive Test Ban should be an integral part of the Treaty and 5) weapon grade fissile materials production must be stopped as an essential part of the Treaty.

The US, UK and Russia then came out with their draft which licensed unlimited proliferation by nuclear weapon powers, and did not envisage a balanced mutuality of obligations between weapon powers and non-weapon powers and had no provision for Comprehensive Test Ban and fissile materials production cut off. Mr V.C. Trivedi called it as an exercise to "disarm the unarmed" and likened it to the diktat of a drunkard Mughal emperor who imposed prohibition on his people. On heaping all obligations on non-nuclear weapons states and permitting the five nuclear weapon nations to have unlimited license to produce nuclear weapons, he said it was similar to locking up the entire peaceful population of a town in the interests of peace because five notorious armed gangsters were roaming about flaunting their weapons.

Today, after 30 years, the US has appropriated the last two of India's five original demands and flaunts them as its own major initiative since no intellectual property rights can be invoked by India and the nonaligned. The history of the last 30 years shows that India was absolutely right in its assessment that the Treaty was not meant to promote nonproliferation but cartelise nuclear weapons as a currency of power in the hands of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Therefore, there is no case for India to revise its stand on the NPT. The country is fully united on that stand. We should also resist the temptation of sending an official observer to the extension conference in April in New York. While it will not give us any advantage it can become counterproductive. The Fourth NPT review conference failed and could not agree even as a declaration just as had happened at the second review conference. The opposition was spearheaded mostly by Mexico. Many western diplomats I met talked of India being very active behind the scenes in bringing about that failure though India had nothing to do with the conference.

The world is slowly realising its folly. The man who built the US nuclear arsenal, Mr Robert Macnamara, is today a crusader for a non-nuclear weapon world. General Horner the man who organised and executed the air operations over Iraq is the first active duty four star general who has come out openly proclaiming the unusability of nuclear weapons. Dozens of retired generals and Admirals and fervent former proponents of nuclear theology are now repentant. Let us not spoil our unique record of unrelenting opposition to nuclear weapons by even giving an iota of our recognition to the NPT by sending an official observer.

Environmentalists Oppose Forest Leasing Plan

BK2401140395 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 18 Jan 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Environment and Forests Ministry's move to give degraded forest land on lease to industries has raised a storm of protest from environmentalists. The Ministry has reportedly forwarded the proposal for Cabinet approval.

Most environmentalists, however, fear that traditional rights of the villagers will be compromised when the forest land is used by industry.

Mr. N.D. Jayal, Director-General of the Natural Heritage wing of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi, told Business Line the chances were high that the land, on which the villagers had traditional rights of grazing and fuelwood collection, would be leased to the industry. "There will certainly be conflict between the people, the industry and the Forest Department," he said.

Voicing similar concerns, the President of the Save the Nilgiris Campaign, Mr. B.J. Krishnan, said that poor villagers and tribals depended heavily on the vegetation in the degraded lands for their survival.

"The rural population, which comprises two-thirds of the country's population depends on biomass from degraded land, " he said. This is in the form of fodder for their livestock, fuelwood, tree manure for agriculture and thatch for house construction. They also use extractions from a variety of plants for drugs and pesticides. "All this will be lost if they lose their access to these lands."

The diversion of these lands to industry, according to him, will exert indirect pressure on the natural forests in the hills, with the people being pressurised to look at the natural stands for their biomass needs.

According to him, the Ministry's proposal goes against the spirit of the National Forest Policy of 1988 and the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development, 1992.

"The Forest Policy had stated that the forest-based industries should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements," he explained. "It further stated that no forest-based enterprise should be permitted in the future unless it had an assured supply of raw materials. The environment strategy also reiterates this position."

The proposal, which has reportedly been submitted by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for Cabinet approval, wants degraded lands to be given on a 30-year lease to industries. The company has to lease at least 100 ha and afforest it. It is entitled to harvest trees on 75 per cent of the land. Thus, the companies can get a part of the raw material requirements from these leased lands.

The Ministry proposal says the land will be leased only after the objections from the local communities and Gram Panchayats are resolved. The project area will be selected by the Forest Department, the forest development corporation concerned and the industry. Twenty per cent of each plot will be planted with species selected by the local community.

Categorisation of land as degraded could lead to many problems, according to Mr. Preston Ahimas, Tamil Nadu State Director of the World Wide Fund for Nature India. "Some degraded lands have their ecological importance," he said. "For instance, scrublands may look as degraded lands. But they form an ecosystem of their own, with a unique plant and animal wealth."

He said, "If afforesting degraded lands means planting trees on stony and rocky land, it is welcome. But nobody can raise a plantation on such lands, so they would not be leased."

He was also afraid that once forest land was allowed on lease, the industry might encroach upon adjoining lands. Leasing out lands in the periphery of ecologically sensitive areas such as national parks or bird sanctuaries might have many indirect adverse effects on their health.

Prof. Madhav Gadgil of the Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, said the arrangement should be within the framework of the Joint Forestry Management Programme (JFMP) being carried out by the various State Forestry Departments.

"I have no prejudice against involving the private industry with afforestation, " he said. "But the Government must think of elaborating the JFMP to have its involvement. Only with this can the local communities be involved effectively."

According to him, the responsibility of protecting the forests should be with the local community, even if it is being grown for commercial purposes. A reasonable proportion of the earnings should go to them.

However, there is unanimity in the fear that the land leased will be used for raising monocultures of species that will provide raw material for pulp and rayon industry. Even if they are not monoculture, they will only be a handful of species. "The debate on whether species like eucalyptus and wattle do more good or bad is not over. At this stage how can you decide on the species?" asks Mr. Ahimas.

Added Mr. Jayal, "The industry is most likely to plant a few species useful to them. They do not serve the same ecological purpose of mixed natural forests, which are ecologically right, conserve soil, meet the local populations need and establish the hydrological cycle. The best solution will be to have afforestation of mixed natural species by involving the local people."

Cold War Said Raging in Tamil Nadu

95AS0135D Madras DINAMANI in Tamil 4 Dec 94 pp 1, 5

[Article by Suthangan: "Raj Bhavan vs Fort; The Cold War Between Governor and Chief Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chief minister of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalitha, has said that there is no cold war between her and the governor. If news of good relations between the Raj Bhavan and the Fort is true, then it is worth rejoicing over.

Informed circles treat the chief minister's statement just like a joke. Recently Prime Minister Narasimha Rao came to Madras. At the airport newsmen asked him about the running feud between the Tamil Nadu governor and the chief minister. He replied that he comes to know that there is difference of opinion between them only from the newsmen. Press correspondents and people of Tamil Nadu reading the news item, described the statement as a joke from a prime minister who does not even smile. Now the chief minister equals the prime minister in telling jokes.

Let us now have a flash back of the relations between the governor and the chief minister. At the beginning there was friendly relation. During Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] rule, Jayalalitha had met Chenna Reddy in Andhra Pradesh and told him about the cruel treatment meted out to her in the legislative assembly.

At that time, Chenna Reddy was Jayalalitha's Andhra "god-father." Later when All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [AIADMK] came into power, it was announced that Chenna Reddy would be governor of Tamil Nadu. At that time Dr. Reddy was governor of Rajasthan. She telephoned him when he was in Mount Abu to felicitate him with the statement, "I am happy that you are coming to Tamil Nadu."

On 31 May 1993, Chenna Reddy assumed charge as governor of Tamil Nadu. The next day, 1 June, the chief minister met the governor. They both discussed the law and order situation and services development in the state. On 15 June, the governor met the newsmen at Ooticamund and said that "The Tamil Nadu government had effectively handled the infiltration of the Tigers (from Sri Lanka) and the law and order situation. Now the only problem is supply of drinking water for Tamil Nadu. This has to get top priority."

On 25 June, the chief minister hosted a tea party in honor of the visiting speaker of the Parliament and the governor attended the function. On 26 June, the chief minister gave a party for the members of the legislative assembly and other officers at the Fishermen's Cove hotel near Mahabalipuram, and the governor was the chief guest.

On 1 July, Justice K. A. Swami assumed office as the chief justice of the Tamil Nadu high court. The swearing-in ceremony was held at Raj Bhavan and the chief minister attended the function. On 4 July, the governor emphasized in a statement that the Krishna river water scheme should soon be implemented to solve the drinking water problem of the city of Madras. The ruling party was elated at the governor's interest in the welfare of Tamil Nadu and to express their appreciation, gave a grand party in honor of the governor and his family at the Poez Gardens on 7 July. There was an enthusiastic reception and a fine dinner. Yet there is a saying that feasts and medications cannot go on for long durations.

This saying became a reality. The reason for this is the governor's Delhi visit of 8 July. It is said that the governor discussed the problem of getting drinking water to Madras city with the central government in New Delhi. While speaking to the reporters in New Delhi, Chenna Reddy disclosed this and also said: "The law and order situation in Tamil Nadu is very satisfactory." He also said that he has friendly relations with the chief minister. Next day, when the governor returned to

Madras, there was a changed atmosphere. He asked the chief secretary, T. V. Venkataraman, to meet him at the Raj Bhavan in order to acquaint him with discussions he had had in Delhi. The secretary to the governor informed Chenna Reddy that the chief minister had ordered that no officer of the Tamil Nadu government including the chief secretary can meet the governor. This stunned the governor's staff at the Raj Bhavan. Circles close to the Raj Bhavan began to wonder why this kind of a sudden change within a couple of days occurred and what caused this change.

Even before Chenna Reddy's arrival in Madras as the governor, his reputation as one who topples governments had widely spread in Tamil Nadu. There were even rumors that Chenna was coming to Madras to topple the AIADMK government. Within a month of his arrival he had put a full stop to such rumors. His Delhi visit had changed that full stop to a comma. In the Fort circles there was a strong rumor that Chenna had come back from Delhi, to dissolve the administration. From that day onwards, the clash between the Raj Bhavan and the Fort began.

Chenna visited Pondicherry during this period, when bitterness began to take deep roots. It was during his stay there that Chief Minister Jayalalitha undertook a fast unto death at the beach demanding Cauvery water. The governor met the chief minister personally and requested her to end her fast. He assured her that he would meet the Karnataka chief minister, Veerappa Moily, and discuss the problem. After a few days, Jayalalitha gave up her fast by drinking a cup of fruit juice offered by the governor. The picture taken on the occasion was flashed in all the newspapers. This friendly relation ended with mere pictures.

On 6 August, a bomb exploded at the premises of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] office in Chetpet and 10 persons were killed on the spot. The governor rushed to the spot. The governor expressed openly in public his dissatisfaction at the officials for failing to report to him immediately about the bombing incident. Next, it was the independence day. The governor hosted a traditional tea party at the Raj Bhavan, which was attended by the chief minister. On 26 August, opposition party leader S. R. Balasubramaniam began an indefinite fast in Coimbatore. The governor asked the state officials to give him a report on the event immediately. There was much brisk activity at Raj Bhavan on 28 August. This can be described as the day of climaxing of the clash between the governor and the chief minister. That day, the representatives of the Tamil Nadu Congress met the governor and gave him a petition complaining about the deteriorating law and order situation and demanded a judicial inquiry into the coal deal. The same day the chief minister met the governor. Chenna Reddy who is accustomed to speaking very frankly is reported to have asked her if it was true that she issued the order saying that nobody including the chief secretary could meet him. During this interview, Jayalalitha's former "god-father" Chenna Reddy gave much advice. This infuriated the chief minister and she walked out of the room, saying, "No use talking to you anymore." All those who were on duty at the Raj Bhavan that day are aware of this walk-out.

The chief minister's walk-out is indeed a very public declaration of war. Because, all the ministers began to come out openly with accusations. On 20 September 1993 Minister S. D. S. accused that the government is directly getting all information from the chief secretary. Two days after this statement, governor's bodyguard Lt. S. K. Singh was relieved of his duty. This change was due to the suspicion that he was passing on information to the Police Department.

It was in October that the next chapter in the war began. There was an earthquake in Maharashtra and the governor began collection of donation for the victims at a function organized by the Indian Red Cross Association. On the first day of the announcement itself, a sum of Rs. 5.5 lakhs was collected. Next day, for a similar relief aid, the chief minister issued an appeal. It was on Gandhi's Birthday and a celebration was organized at Gandhi Mandapam (Memorial) which is under the jurisdiction of the Raj Bhavan. Yet there was no invitation to the governor.

A seminar was held on AIDS under the chairmanship of the governor on 5 October. No Health official from the Tamil Nadu government was permitted to participate in the seminar. The governor went to Delhi on 7 and 8 October, and met the president, prime minister and minister for home affairs and appraised them of the situation in Tamil Nadu. On 15 October, the speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislature, Sedapatti Muthayya, and the minister for law, K. A. Krishnaswami, went to Delhi and met the president and complained about the governor. Next day the law minister issued a statement against the governor. THE HINDU [newspaper] came out with an editorial saying that it is unhealthy to clash with the governor. The governor wrote to the home minister in Delhi complaining about the indecent tirade against him by the ministers. The main point of the letter was that the home minister should inform him of the next course of action after consultations with the prime minister. The next day Tamil Nadu Minister Kannappan made a statement accusing Chenna Reddy of bringing down the prestige of the office of governor and that after his assuming office, officials who had put in three decades of service at Raj Bhavan were living in great fear; that the governor teases them, uses abusive language and kicks them around. The minister's statement carried other similar charges.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao came to Madras on 25 October. The governor and the chief minister went to receive him at the airport but each had a separate camp. On 5 November, flag day-committee meeting was to take place. Chenna Reddy came to know that none of the government officers will participate in any meeting attended by the governor. Opposition party leader S. R. Balasubramaniam accused the Police of spying on the governor's house. There was an anonymous threat that Raj Bhavan would be bombed. The High Court rejected the cases against the appointment of the governor. The chief minister wrote to the governor asking for extension for the chief secretary's tenure on 29 November. The governor sent his consent the very next day.

The governor is the chancellor for all the universities in Tamil Nadu. On 1 December, Mother Teresa University held a convocation ceremony with Chancellor Chenna Reddy presiding. The minister for education and Jayanthi, secretary of the Education Department, boycotted the function. the chairs reserved for them on the dais were empty. After this experience, all convocation functions under the presidentship of the chancellor were held without the ministers and the officers of the government. Agriculture Minister K. P. Krishnan is said to be deciding on possibly not having the convocation ceremony of the Agriculture University, just to prevent Chenna Reddy's participation. The governor was scheduled to participate in a function organized by the Indian Medical Association. The function did not take place as the government refused to give permission to use the hall. The governor rejected the proposed committee to select a suitable person as vice-chancellor of Madras University.

Iran

U.S. Claims of Bushehr Military Use 'Baseless'

LD2601172295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has described U.S. claims that the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to use the Bushehr power station for military purposes as baseless.

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman mentioned the above news today, and added: The power station will be built under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

He referred to the Iran's membership of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and emphasized: The organization's inspectors have had expert inspections of the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear installations and have found no cases indicating a violation of the rules and regulations or that Iran is attempting to access nuclear weapons.

Daily Assails U.S. Refusal To Grant Visa

LD2501151795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1340 GMT 25 Jan 95

[From today's "Press Review" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The daily SALAM has written a report in its news column on the U.S. refusal to grant a visa to a member of the Iranian delegation planning to attend the preliminary meeting of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in America.

Referring to similar measures undertaken by the United States in the past, the report says: Not granting a visa is a childish tactic, which will not prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from making its views heard in international forums.

The report adds: By so doing, the Washington government intends to make Iran a target of its propaganda onslaught so as to cover up the Zionist regime's refusal to sign the NPT. At the same time, the United States intends to force some Arab states such as Egypt to sign this treaty.

5th Majles Election Commission Members Named

NC2701073095 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jan 95 p 1

[Report from the TEHRAN TIMES Political Desk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Majles deputies, in their last session, appointed the members of the 5th Majles Election Commission to oversee election activities, an informed source told TEHRAN TIMES yesterday.

At the session, Ayatollah Gholam Reza Rezvani was named to head the commission, with Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reza 'Abbasi-Fard, Ahmad 'Alizadeh and Mohammad Reza 'Alizadeh named as members.

A bill was also passed allowing military personnel on emergency missions to shoot whenever the need for such an extraordinary measure was felt necessary, the act not considered a violation of Islamic codes and values.

Amendment (H) of Section 3 of Article 55 of the 1994-95 budget bill was also passed. However, Amendment (H) of Article 7 of the said budget bill was rejected as a violation of Article 75 of the constitution.

Amendment (H) of Article 7 of the budget bill for 1994-95 proposed, pursuant to Article 154 of the Labor Code, to allow the Labor Ministry to collect Rls. 1,200 annually from each production unit which fails to provide recreation, cultural and sports facilities to its workers, the money to be spent for the establishment and development of said worker amenities.

Article 75 of the constitution provides that bills proposing amendments to a Majles law, specifically those which will result in any decrease of public income or which will lead to an increase in public spending should provide for new income or other sources of income and not from a reduction in approved allocations.

Prisons Organization Holds Meeting

LD2501150195 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—University professors held a two day meeting inside Evin Prison to study the mental health problems in prisons Tuesday [24 January]. Addressing the audience, Asadollah Lajevardi, chief of the prisons organization said the aim of the gathering was explore ways of better rehabilitating and reforming inmates and making society familiar with prisons.

Lajevardi said that the ultimate aim of the prisons organization was to boost the morale as well as the education level of inmates and to learn them how to lead a decent life so that they may not be commit offences again. "To achieve this goal," he added, "we have made literacy and physical exercises obligatory for prisoners. All inmates who have been released before are able to read and write."

In continuation of the meeting, some university professors and psychiatrists presented articles on various subjects including symptoms of mental disorders that are prevalent in prisons, factors effective in commiting crimes and ways of preventing them.

The meeting is coorganized by the medical department of the Prisons Organization and the Psychiatry Institute of Tehran.

MKO's Economic Espionage Plot Foiled in Bushehr

LD2601205595 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bushehr, Jan. 26, IRNA—A fresh plot by the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) on economic espionage has been foiled in Bushehr, JOMHURI ESLAMI daily quoted director general of the provincial information department Thursday [26 January].

The Tehran-based daily in its today's edition quoted the official as saying that the terrorist MKO intended to transfer information, which they gathered through espionage efforts, about country's industrial centers and economic issues to abroad via the southern province of Bushehr.

Speaking to the reporters at the exhibition of silent efforts in Shahid Bahonar Hall, the officials said the plot was found and foiled by vigilant and timely measures of the unknown soldiers of the imam of the time, the daily said.

According to the daily, the official also briefed the reporters on the activities of the provincial information department and said security forces have seized more than 56 pieces of firearms, 20,000 bullets and huge amounts of explosive materials. 19 distributor agents were also arrested in this regard.

The official also said that according to the investigation, the security personnel has managed to arrest certain elements who were engaged in selling national lands to governmental organizations under the cloak of personal properties through abuse of judicial titles.

The 4-day exhibition of the silent efforts aims at recognizing the enemies plots against the values of the Islamic system of Iran.

IRNA-Run Daily Begins Publication

NC2601145895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Jan 95 p 1

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—A new Persian daily, IRAN, appeared yesterday at the horizon of Iranian journalism. The daily is run by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), drawing the attention of readers.

In its first editorial, the daily said it had named the paper IRAN "Because we feel that today our country is calling upon all of us to unite and defend our identity, culture, and interests in the face of mounting hostility. Publishing IRAN is an attempt to rise to this historical summoning," said the editorial.

It said it will sincerely follow the principles underlying the Islamic Revolution which culminated in 17979, under the wise and able leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni.

The newspaper is the second Persian daily printed in color, while the first was Tehran Municipality's HAMSHAHRI.

Of the 658 publications in Iran, 35 are dailies, including three published in English. The TEHRAN TIMES is the first English daily to be published after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Fewer Foreign Exchange Expenditures in 2d Plan

LD2501152895 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Semnan Jan. 25, IRNA—Iran's foreign exchange expenditures in the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-99) is expected to be one third that of the First Five-Year Plan which totalled dlrs. 107 billion, the minister of economy and financial affairs has said.

The minister Morteza Mohammad Khan said the export of manufactured goods rose by 25 percent in the course of the first development plan, adding that the exports of this sector should reach ddlrs. 10 bn in the next ten years.

Mohammad Khan, who was talking at a gathering of industrialists in Semnan, said that national industries needed dlrs. three billion in foreign exchange annually. Due to investments made in capital and intermediary sectors the country's needs for hard currencies have sharply decreased, the minister said. He also said that the government earmarked dlrs. 12 billion to pay in subsidies for generation and supply of enrgy every year.

New Trade Law To 'Stabilize' Currency Market

LD2601170195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The committee in charge of regulating the currency market has taken new steps to improve the use of currency acquired from exports in meeting import and production requirements.

The head of the Central Bank, Mohsen Nurbakhsh said that according to the new decision exporters can allocate, under certain conditions, the currency acquired from exports to other importers or import commodities themselves.

[Begin Nurbakhsh recording] The exporter's only commitment will be to return 50 percent of the value of his exports to an Iranian bank within a period determined by the type of commodity. This could be under his own name and could be used, within a period of about four months, to import, to be sold to other importers at an agreed price, or to be sold to the bank at the price sold to importers. I have to make clarifications since there have been rumors that agreements will be required. Prior agreements mean that the value of imports should have been returned and sold to the bank. In the new system, however, only 50 percent of the export's value is returned to the bank, under the name of the exporter, which could be used by himself, within a four month period, or sold to someone else. [end recording]

[Announcer] The head of the Central Bank also said that the regulations will take effect from 4 February. [passage omitted]

He said the aim of the new regulations was to encourage better use of currency obtained from exports and to stabilize the market for foreign currency used for exports.

Nateq-Nuri Describes Economic Difficulties

LD2601173395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, Mr. Nateq-Nuri, addressed a large gathering of the clerics and lecturers of the Qom Theological School at the A'zam Mosque today. He said unity between marja'iyat [being a source of emulation] and leadership was a divine blessing in Islamic societies and its greatness would become clear in future. He added: In Islamic society, only the person who believes in the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult and supports Islamic rule can become the source of emulation.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri described the existence of economic difficulties in society as a reality resulting from the investment of the Islamic system in the national infrastructure. He said: In spite of the reduction in oil production and the doubling of the country's population, many of our country's regions are undergoing noticeable developments. In any case, in next years's budget, all the subsidies will remain.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles announced that the Islamic system is duty bound to combat the manifestations of corruption in society and described the approval of the bill outlawing the use of satellite equipment as one of the most important aspects of this struggle. [passage omitted]

Importance of Manufacturing Spare Parts Noted

LD2501151595 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Wednesday [25 January] that manufacturing spare parts was the best way to self-sufficiency. While visiting the 'Design Engineering and Supply of Automative Parts Company' (SAPCO) which produces spare parts for [word indistint] vehicles, President Rafsanjani said that one million people are [word indistinct] their living through working in this sector.

SAPCO started activity in March 1994 and has so far signed agreements with 400 car assembling companies worth rls. 545 billion.

Managing director of Iran-Khodrow said in his report to the president that Iran-Khodrow undertook to cooperate with producers of spare parts and that the quality of the parts mnanufactured in Iran is guaranteed. The managing director of SAPCO told the president that his company has become self-sufficient in producing 95 percent of the auto parts for Paykan automobiles and that all spare parts of Paykan cars will be produced in Iran within the next two years. He said that SAPCO produces 36.2 percent of the auto parts for Iranian Peugeot cars.

Meanwhile, in a related development President Rafsanjani inaugurated the first phase of the 'Heavy Dies Manufacturing Company' (IHDM) on Wednesday. The IHDM with a nominal capacity of 1,000 tons of casting for different moulds has cost dls. 37 million and rls. 26 billion. The technical know-how for the project was delivered by the Japanese company, Fuji.

Statistics Reported on Southern Port Imports

LD2501133995 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 25 (IRNA)—Some 12.21 million tons of non-oil goods were imported in the first three quarters of the current Iranian year (started March 21) via southern port cities and borders, it was reported here Wednesday [25 January].

The report said that 94 percent of the goods were imported through port cities and the remaining 6 percent through border points. It added that out of total imported goods, 6.3 million tons were essential and 5.9 million tons were non-essential commodities.

Moreover, some 5,646,000 tons of oil products were imported in the said period.

The report added that the two port cities of Bandar Abbas in Hormuzgan Province and Bandar Imam in Khuzestan Province, ranked as the first and second respectively in terms of unloading goods in the said period.

Rug Exports 'Surge Despite U.S. Import Ban'

LD2701102795 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—When the United States banned the import of all Iranian goods in October 1988, many Persian rug dealers feared the worst, says an economic magazine. It also says overcoming the impact of being barred from the world's largest carpet market would be very difficult, adding that "but somehow the Iranian traders have pulled it off."

IRAN BUSINESS MONITOR wrote in an article in its December issue, titled, "Rug Exports Surge Despite U.S. Import Ban," that since 1988, the begining of the First Five-Year Development Plan, handwoven carpet exports have surged.

In the Iranian year 1367 (March 1988-89) they stood at dlrs. 400 million. But by the end of the plan last March, they were up to dlrs. 1.4 million, it said. It quoted Kaykhosrow Sobeh, a senior rug exporter, as saying that if the private sector has the support of the government it can cover the world with Persian rugs.

Overall, the article said, handwoven carpet exports during the implementation of the plan have actually exceeded the government's prediction by 4 percent, reaching dlrs. 4.6 billion.

Noting that the latest trade figures show the trend to be continuing, the article said, "In the first six months of the current year (started March 21) handwoven carpet exports were up 31 percent over the same period last year."

The carpet industry, which employs some 8 million people indirectly and directly, has typically been Iran's leading non-oil hard currency for many years, stressed the article.

It argued that this year's rise was "partly due to the relative success of an international carpet show organized in Tehran in late August, where dlrs. 250 million worth of rugs has been bought by Iranian and foreign traders for export. This was despite the absence of many foreign traders who were not given a visa to enter the country," it added.

Many traders and officials said the main reason for the dramatic increase in sales in recent years was "greater incentives and fewer export regulations," argued the article adding, demand for genuine Persian rugs has always been and will always be strong.

This level of confidence was not shared by everyone in the business, wrote the article quoting chairman of the Iranian Rug Exports Union, Javad Ale Ahmad, as saying, "the world is receptive to Persian carpets, but there are not enough carpets that suit the market. The problem is that each Persian rug looks different."

He said the ban on large weaving houses, where more than a thousand rugs at a time could be produced under the supervision of experts with knowledge about the latest trends in various markets, had prevented greater exporters.

In terms of value, noted the article, Iran still "leads the world in handwoven carpet exports. But it lags behind India and China in terms of quantity. India's annual exports are more than 8 million square meters, followed by China's 6 million and Iran's 5 million square meters."

It argued that what Iran's competitors lack in design, quality and reputation they tried to make up with less expensive products, copying Persian designs and most importantly, by mass production based on changing tastes and trends in various markets.

"We can double our rug exports if we make fundamental changes in our marketing strategy," the article quoted Nosratollah Mahmoud-Zadeh, head of the Construction Jihad Ministry's carpet weavers union.

The official added "we must seek out untapped markets, institute quality and guide the weavers toward making rugs in sizes and colors that are liked by foreign buyers,"

The official noted "the ministry provides the union with all-natural raw materials, encourages weavers to avoid cheaper but short-lasting artificial colors and guides them on what colors and sizes are in demand."

However, Mahmoud-Zadeh insisted, Persian rugs should not bow completely to changing trends. "The Construction Jihad Ministry does not intend to create a lot of large carpet weaving houses...the distinction of Persian rugs is that they are woven by individualls inspired by local natural environments. They are not mass produced like Chinese and Indian rugs," wrote the article.

*Over R3 Billion Spent on Baft Road Projects

95P50037B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Dec 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] Baft—Mr. Bank, the governor general of Kerman, along with the Baft Majles representative, the assistant in charge of planning and administrative finances, the Friday Imam, the governor of Baft, and the directors of the province's administrative offices, visited development projects in Baft.

According to our correspondent, during this visit, Kerman province roads and transportation authorities announced that over 3 billion rials [R] have been spent on road projects in this city-region during the current year. Among the roads expanded are 101 km of the Baft-Arzu'iyeh road; 38 km of the Khabar-Dashtab road; surfacing of 20 km of the Baft-Sirjan road; and widening and construction of a shoulder along 30 km of the Baft-Kerman road.

The governor general and his attendants visited a stretch of the Baft—Arzu'iyeh road that is under construction. During this visit, it was announced that 90 km of this road will become operational this year. The remaining 11 km, with 38 bridges and 52 exits, will become operational in the beginning of [13]74 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996].

It is worth mentioning, during the current year, R1.2 billion have been allocated for the construction of the Baft-Arzu'iyeh road. Also, 38 km of the Khabar-Dashtab road will become operational this year.

During this visit, the governor general allocated R200 million for the construction of a shoulder along the Baft-Kerman road.

This report states that the Kerman governor general met with a group of citizens from the rural districts of

Bezanjan, Dowlatabad, Abdasht, and Soghan and the village of Shahid Parvar-Ganjan and listened to their questions and problems.

It should be noted that the village of Ganjan has the second highest number of martyrs. Also, during his visit to Baft city-region, the governor general inaugurated the district's entrance square. During this ceremony, the mayor of Rabor stated that R80 million have been allocated for the construction of this entrance square.

Rowhani Blames West for Global Instability

LD2501144895 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan 25, IRNA—Vice-Speaker of Majles, Hassan Rowhani, here Wednesday [25 January] underlined that the lack of stability and security in many parts of the world particularly in the strategic region of the Middle East, the Persian Gulf and even in the Far East stems from military and non-military interferences of the Western powers.

He made the remark in a meeting with the visiting head of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Institute for International Studies, Yang Cheng Xu.

"As Asian countries, we have no difficulty in establishment of sound and constructive relations with other continents of the world, but we are also against any destructive ties as well as the West's hegemonism," Rowhani reiterated.

He further underlined the need to provide joint political, economic and security projects by different study centers to establish cooperation and stability in the region.

Rowhani expressed hope that Asia would play its due and fundamental role at international arena and added, "we expect big countries such as China which is one of the great powers of the continent to exploit all its strength in this regard."

Referring to the reconstruction trend in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Chinese official termed bilateral research cooperation as effective in acceleration of the trend.

At the end of the meeting, he voiced his country's readiness for joint projects in various fields of politics, economy and security.

Pakistan

Islamabad TV Reports on Jammu Bombing

BK2601135795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, eight people were reported killed and nearly 100 others, including Governor Krishna Rao, were injured in series of bomb explosions in Jammu on the Indian Republic Day today. Reports reaching from across the held valley say three bombs exploded in Maulana Azad Stadium when Governor Krishna Rao was addressing the Republic Day parade. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reports that Krishna Rao also received injuries in the bomb explosions.

The Indian Republic Day was observed as black day throughout occupied Kashmir. Complete strike was observed and offices and business centers remained closed and the transport was suspended. The Indian flag was burned and during the night, there was blackout. Nobody was allowed to come out in the open and the Indian forces gave strict instructions not to open any window of the house. Even the journalists were not allowed to come out, as a result of which no newspaper appeared in Srinagar today.

People of Azad Kashmir and Kashmiris living in Pakistan also observed Indian Republic Day as black day. Protest rallies were held in all the major towns of Azad Kashmir. Large number of people, belonging to all walks of life, including journalists, scholars, and teachers, participated in the rallies. They condemned human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir. The processionists were carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans in favor of independence from Indian subjugation. They demanded immediate end to Indian brutalities against the Kashmiris struggling for the right of self-determination. A memorandum was presented by Kashmiri leaders to a representative of UN Observers Mission in Rawalpindi. The memorandum reminds the world's body to fulfill its responsibility regarding the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir.

Official Describes Talks With Japan's Fukuda

OW2601144895 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Jan. 26 KYODO—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda on Thursday [26 January] had talks with Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh on "security, arms control and nuclear nonproliferation," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

Fukuda arrived in the Pakistani capital Wednesday and is scheduled to hold a second round of talks before returning to Tokyo on Friday, Munir Akram told reporters.

Fukuda's visit is part of the regular annual consultations between Pakistan and Japan. The previous talks were held in Tokyo last November, Akram said.

Akram said the talks also covered matters relating to nuclear nonproliferation. He said Japan urged Pakistan again to unilaterally sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In February last year, a six-member Japanese mission held talks on Pakistan's nuclear program and the general nuclear issue.

Bhutto Urges Navy To 'Establish Its Superiority'

BK2701114795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the government will continue to work for the progress and the prosperity of the country and strengthen the Armed Forces to defend the country. She was addressing senior naval officers, chief petty officers, and sailors at an impressive weapon demonstration ceremony on board the PNS Nassir, which was moving in the open sea near Karachi yesterday.

The prime minister praised the role of the Armed Forces and said the Pakistan Navy has to play an important role in the future. It not only has to defend the country's coast and waterways, but also establish its superiority by challenging the hegemony of enemy in the sea. She assured that the government will extend its wholehearted support for the development of the Navy. She said that the Navy has made tremendous progress during the last one year as the government has ensured the timely arrival of six Type-21 frigates from England, while Agosta class 90-B submarines are being procured from France. She said the government has enhanced submarine overhaul capability to indigenous submarine construction. She lauded the services of the Navy and said that despite limited manpower and its resource constraints, it has kept the national flag aloft in the seas.

Editorial Views Bhutto Proposal for Islamic Bloc

95AS0179A Karachi JANG in Urdu 16 Dec 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Proposal to Establish a Muslim Bloc"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has proposed to the Islamic world to form an Islamic bloc for their defense as a group and economic and cultural cooperation in order to thwart the dangers and restrictions imposed by the non-Islamic and anti-Islamic forces in the world. While addressing the 7th conference of heads of Islamic countries, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that Kashmir, Bosnia, and Azerbaijan are challenges to us. There are massacres being committed in Kashmir. About 40,000 Kashmiris have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been tortured. Thousands of women were raped and 600,000 Indian troops are trying to crush the Kashmir freedom struggle. We must continue moral, diplomatic, and political support for Kashmir and the Security Council should help the Kashmiris win their right to self-determination. She said that after Bosnia, Albania is also endangered. Islam is being called fundamentalist under an international scheme. Extremism is practiced when there is unfairness like in Kashmir and Bosnia. Madam Benazir Bhutto said that we must unite to counter the international propaganda. We can strengthen our economy by increasing mutual cooperation.

The Conference of Islamic Leaders was established when Israel had become hostile and insulted the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Muslim world did find an Islamic forum in the form of the Conference of Islamic leaders, however, the dangers that the Muslim world faced have not been controlled yet. The truth is that the Islamic world is facing serious danger after some of the geographical changes that have taken place at the international level, especially after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The anti-Islamic forces are busy in causing rifts between Muslim countries, weakening them by creating internal unrest, and dividing them. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has mentioned the atrocities being committed on the Muslim populations in Kashmir, Bosnia, and Azerbaijan and has hinted about the danger heading toward Albania after Bosnia. These all relate to the conspiracies of the anti-Islamic forces against Islam. Europe and the whole Western world is silent on the bestial atrocities being committed on the Muslims in Kashmir, Azerbaijan, and Bosnia. They are even accusing Pakistan of interference in occupied Kashmir. Even the resolutions passed in the United Nations are being neglected. The anti-Islamic forces do not want any Islamic Nation to become economically, politically, and defensively strong. The noise that India, Israel, the United States, and other Western nations made against Pakistan's nuclear program is a clear proof of the conspiracies against Islamic countries. These forces have always been quiet about the nuclear programs in India, Israel, and South Africa.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has not only warned the Islamic countries about the dangers from anti-Islamic powers, but also asked them to take practical steps and reminded them of their responsibilities. These will help make the Islamic world politically and economically stronger. The fact is that the Islamic world does not lack resources; the problem is to combine these and use them for the welfare and development of Islamic world. Only this way can the Islamic countries get rid of economic and political exploitation by the West.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has also given an appropriate and definite reply to the accusation of extremism and fundamentalism against Islamic countries and Islamic movements. Wherever injustice and atrocities are committed on a group, extremist elements will emerge there. After the fall of socialism, the West is focusing all its propaganda against Islam and Islamic teaching. The West sees Islam as a danger to its own society [which is] bereft of any direction or moral basis. There is an ideological basis for unity among the Islamic countries. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's speech not only reflects the feelings of 120 million Pakistanis, but of the whole Islamic world. The challenges that the Islamic world is facing now cannot be met individually or by regional coalitions; instead the whole Islamic world must united as one force. Our individual and united existence depends on it.

Possibility for Peace in Karachi Viewed

95AS0179C Karachi JANG in Urdu 15 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Muhammad Farooq Qureshi: "The Problem of Establishing Peace in Karachi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The law and order situation in Karachi started to worsen in October 1993 and the situation has reached a point now in which 10 or 12 people lose their lives daily and the number of wounded is in addition to that. In addition, even the law and order enforcement agencies are not safe from the terrorists. This can give us a good idea of the seriousness of the situation. In order to alleviate this situation and to establish peace in Karachi the Mir Khalilur Rehman Memorial Society recently organized a "peace rally." Prominent people from all over the country participated in it and a lengthy pledge to establish peace was also shared with the public.

At the same time, the opposition took the initiative to call a conference of the members of the Senate and the National Assembly at Karachi. The most important aspect of this conference was the offer of cooperation with the government to establish peace in Karachi made by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif. He said that the situation cannot be resolved by ignoring the Mohajir Quami Movement [MQM] and we must talk with Altaf Hussain also. "I am willing to play a role in this effort. There is no room for pride here." He warned that if the situation did not improve, the fire would spread all over the country. The law and order situation is not limited to Karachi, but is serious all over Sindh. The opposition has taken leadership [steps] here by calling this meeting of the Parliament. Sharif continued "The opposition has the larger mandate from more people than the government. We will change the situation in the nation even from the opposition benches and find a solution to this problem."

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the Awami National Party [ANP], said in his speech that the situation in Karachi is beyond being resolved by emotional speeches and showing off one's skills in rhetoric and eloquence. It is a problem for all Pakistanis and must be resolved with great seriousness. Whether one agrees with its politics or not, it is necessary to recognize the MQM as a political power in order to resolve the Karachi situation. The fact is that it is the representative power of Sindh's urban areas. The credit to get attention to Karachi's problems goes to the Muslim League (N) [PML (N)]. This problem is political and should be resolved politically. We all know the result of trying to resolve political issues by military force.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto rejected opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's offer to help resolve the Karachi situation by saying that Karachi has 80 police stations and that only 11 of these are in bad shape. Although the situation in Karachi is not satisfactory now, it is improving gradually. If the opposition has some concrete suggestions for resolving the Karachi situation, it should share these with Sindh's chief minister. The MQM should also come forward to cooperate with the government. According to the information received by JANG, the prime minister said that he [Sharif] must explain what he wants to do because he has no position in Karachi's politics.

The prime minister has proved by rejecting the opposition leader's offer that her earlier comments about cooperating with the opposition and establishing a working relationship with it were mere lip service. The government was not sincere or serious about it. Had the government really been serious about establishing a good working relationship with the opposition, it would have given a positive response to the recent opposition offer and taken advantage of this opportunity. This could have been a healthy beginning of a bright future. However, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto raised questions that are unnecessary and unreasonable.

As for the position of the opposition leader in Karachi's politics, we can say that he has the same position as the prime minister and her party, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. The PPP and the PML (N) each got six seats in the National Assembly because the MQM had boycotted the 1993 election. However, when the MQM stopped its boycott during the state legislative election, the PPP learned about its position and the MQM easily carried the day. If, as the prime minister put it, Nawaz Sharif has no political position there, still he has a solid position as the opposition leader. In a parliamentary system, the difference between the house leader and the opposition leader is one step.

Negotiations and talks are the soul of democracy. To attain this goal, sitting at one table to negotiate is a major step. The opposition must have some ideas. The government should review these and inform the opposition about its limitation and problems. The MQM should be included in these negotiations. They should be listened to and steps be taken to meet their demands. Some suggestions be implemented as soon as is practical. Plans be made to implement other suggestions. A package can be prepared on this basis if the government is sincere and serious in its desire to resolve the Karachi situation. If the government's goal is just to humor them by making verbal promises of spending billions of rupees, the opposition or the MQM cannot be of help to it.

The ruling party is not correct in saying that the MQM should also cooperate with the government. The government should be aware that it is dealing with solid political powers of the nation. Political and democratic protocol dictate these parties be treated as required by the democratic and political culture. If the government really wants to solve the problems in Karachi, it must emotionally and mentally accept the opposition and the MQM as its political allies. There will be concrete and effective results after that. Veteran politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan should play an important role in this context since he is an expert on the intricacies negotiations.

The seriousness of the situation in Karachi can be understood well by the fact that a peace rally was held there. Almost all the important people from all walks to life took part in it. It was hoped from the nation as a whole and Karachi in particular that a peaceful era would begin in Karachi. However, all these hopes were dashed to ground when weekly TAKBEER's editor Salahuddin was assassinated by terrorists. The man who was working hard with his pen and tongue against terrorism and atrocities, who made a speech at the Karachi peace conference and preached about peace was killed by the terrorists while his speech and teachings were still echoing in the wind. He was murdered in cold blood. Fourteen bullets were found in his body. Prominent journalist Salahuddin was not the only one killed on 4 December after the peace rally; seven other persons lost their lives in firings in various places. It is true that the government immediately ordered the arrest of Salahuddin's killers, however, what results did such orders bring about in the past? Will it be any different now?

The Cabinet, by deciding something different in its meeting, took a step in the right direction. The government's announcement to call an all parties conference and Sindh's chief minister's instructions to take immediate steps for it are encouraging actions. Additionally, the decision to include the MQM in this conference is laudable. Recognition of the MQM as a political force by its bitter opponents—the PPP and the Jamaat-i Islami [JI]—is equivalent to accepting the truth. Because of this boldness and seriousness we can hope that the knotty problem of Karachi will be solved.

Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif took serious note of the prime minister's comment about his position. He has the right to be upset about it, however, he should ignore this bitter experience keeping in mind the broader interest of the nation and come forward to play an effective role in this effort. This is not the time to increase any more bitterness, but is the time to forget and forgive in order the make the conference successful. The is the joint responsibility of all the democratic and peace-loving forces in the country. The people should also be alert and careful in this situation.

Government Seen Indifferent to Cooperation

95AS0179B Karachi JANG in Urdu 19 Dec 94 p 3

[Article by Chowdhury Wajid Ali Khan: "The Government and the Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government always complains about the opposition, stating that whenever it asked the opposition for cooperation or offered to cooperate with it over some national issue, the opposition has rejected it and encouraged confrontational politics in the country. The government also complains that the opposition has rejected every invitation from the government to hold talks and that this is against the spirit of democracy. The vehicle of democracy can move only when the opposition and the government work together. This way, the problems faced by the people can be resolved and democratic institutions are strengthened.

If we look at the claims made by the government within the framework of the present situation and facts, some of the government claims appear to be far fetched. The latest example is the ruling by the Senate chairman and the speaker of the National Assembly [NA] in which both gentlemen have advised the government to bring the arrested members of the Senate and the Assembly to the House. The orders of the Senate chairman and the Assembly speakers are above all other officials and their ruling is considered an order. However, the government refused to obey it and said that the opposition should approach the court. Yusuf Reza Gailani, the speaker of the National Assembly, even criticized the government and after meeting with the prime minister, his stand is that the ruling he issued was correct. According to a news report, he has expressed willingness to preside over the NA meetings, he is still firm on his ruling. The same is true about Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad; he also stands by his ruling and called the government policy wrong. The truth is that some assembly members are also criticizing the government over its policy on the arrested members and calling it wrong. Maraj Khalid, Ghulam Mustafa Khar and several other majority members strongly opposed the arrest of Mian Mohammed Sharif, father of Mian Nawaz Sharif. The way he was arrested and humiliated was nothing less than a political vendetta. After seeing the reaction of the people, the government let him go. Now the government is threatening to arrest Mian Nawaz Sharif. The deputy speakers of the National Assembly and the Senate both have ruled against the government, however, the government did not pay heed to it. It is obvious that the opposition cannot cooperate with the government because of this attitude. Is the government stand designed to get cooperation from the opposition? The government repeatedly states that it is not helping the Kashmiri mujaheddin. After what happened to Pakistani resolutions in the Human Rights Commission and the UN General Assembly, how can the government claim that it is sincere about Kashmir and wants to resolve [the disputed status] using fair means? The attitude of the government shows that it has no interest in the Kashmir issue. Keeping in mind this attitude of the government, if some circles suspect the government stand on the nuclear issue, we cannot blame them. The statement of the spokesman for the armed forces is on record saying that we are not willing to give to the United States what it wants in exchange for supplying us F-16s. It means that seeing our government's weakness, the U.S. demands are becoming greater and more intense.

The riots and terrorism in Karachi and other cities in Sindh as well as Punjab during this government's rule are causing concern. Even peaceful citizens are not safe in Karachi. A well-known journalist has been murdered. The manager of a newspaper was shot right in his office. Bombs are being thrown at mosques and worship places. Even some police officers and government officials are becoming victims of terrorists. However, the government does not pay any attention to all this. The opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif offered cooperation to the government for improving the situation in Karachi. However, the prime minister responded harshly to it. She asked what place did Nawaz Sharif had in Karachi's politics? She forgot that Nawaz Sharif is the opposition leader and received more votes than the Pakistan People's Party in the election. If a ruler had the real feeling for the country's problems, he or she should never have responded to the opposition leader's offer this way. She closed the subject by saying that Nawaz Sharif should talk with Sindh's chief minister. However, no prominent opposition party is willing to attend the peace conference that the Sindh chief minister has called. What is worse! Prominent social leader Mr. Abndulsatar Aidhi has left the country quietly and moved to England to save his life. He announced on his arrival there that Allah is his witness that a conspiracy is in place to break up the nation and plans were made to murder him. He said that he had left the country quietly because his murder would have been blamed on the Mohajir quami Movement or some other factional party. The situation in Karachi was never so serious. Any person's life, honor, or dignity is not safe now. The situation in other parts of the country is also deteriorating rapidly. Crime is on the rise in Punjab's capital, Lahore. The same is true about other districts where the government has failed in protecting lives and property. The government has not been successful in solving the unemployment problem. The educated youth are forced to take to crime because hiring is frozen in the nation. However, the government openly gives employment to its own people. Prices are increasing daily and the poor people are finding it hard to live. The government, meanwhile, is using its whole energy against the opposition. The government has not done any work on passing laws in the parliament and not developmental plans has been started. The government has not given any creditable answer to the accusation that the Gawadar port is being leased to Oman. There is news about the presence of U.S. soldiers on the Makran coast and the government is not trying to take the opposition or the people in confidence about all these issues.

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